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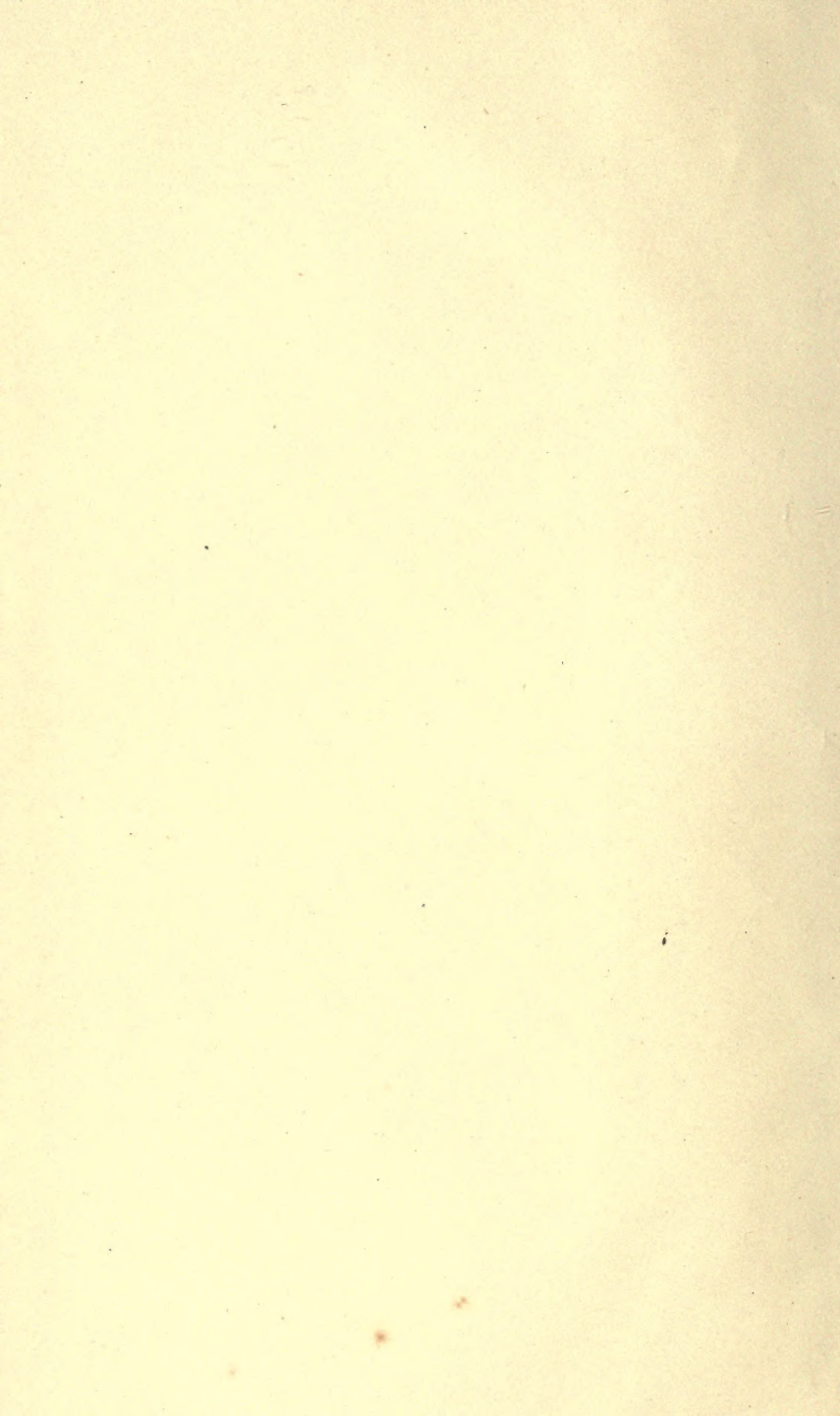
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HISTORY  
OF  
LODGE RISING STAR  
OF  
WESTERN INDIA No. 342 S. C.

BY  
RT. WOR. BRO: D. F. WADIA,  
*Past Master of the Lodge and Past Honorary  
Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge  
of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.*

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1912.

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1871

LODGE RISING STAR

OF WESTERN INDIA

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OF THE

OF THE



Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. Burnes, Provincial Grand Master of Western India  
and first Master of Lodge Rising Star, also, its Honorary  
Master for life.





Rt. Wor. Bro. Maneckji Cursetji, Pioneer of Freemasonry in  
Western India.



HS650  
B4246  
W23

## PREFACE

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EAST INDIA UNITED SERVICE CLUB,  
ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, S.W.

I HAVE been asked to write a short preface to this History of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, and I do so with great pleasure and a certain degree of confidence because I was privileged to be present in Lodge on every occasion, save one, when that history, compiled with so much labour and devotion by Right Worshipful Brother D. F. Wadia, was read. Lodge "Rising Star," is, if my memory serves me right, the third oldest Lodge under the Scottish Constitution in India, but its claim to veneration rests upon higher ground than mere antiquity: to her belongs the great honour in the West of India, of first enrolling Indian brethren in the Antient Craft, and the outcome of that action as set forth in this history—the true masonic spirit displayed over long years by many of her worthy sons—is in very truth more than justification of her initiation. Were it not invidious, I could mention many names on her rolls—some here, some gone—whose work for the Craft is not only a measure of their own merit but redounds to the credit of their mother Lodge. Feeling as I do, that Freemasonry in India has a great future before it, and a great work to accomplish, especially in the inculcation of tolerance and the removal of racial and religious prejudice, I can heartily commend



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a careful perusal of this history to earnest brethren, who seek to spread the teachings of the Antient Craft. It is a record of vicissitude and prosperity, of calm and storm, mayhap even of good and evil, but through it all runs a golden thread of honest endeavour, whose reward is the high estimation in which the Lodge is now held, and the honoured place it now occupies on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

LONDON,  
*May 13th, 1911.* }

R. H. FORMAN,  
*Grand Master of All Scottish  
 Freemasonry in India.*

# CONTENTS.

## PAGES

### CHAPTER I.

- 1841—43. Movement for foundation of the Lodge. Petition to Provincial Grand Master of Western India—Agitation for admission of Indian Gentlemen in Freemasonry—Initiative of Brother Maneckji Cursetji—Reply of Provincial Grand Master... .. 1—10

### CHAPTER II.

- 1843—44. Establishment of the Lodge—First meeting in the Town Hall—Warrant—First Bye-laws. Form of declaration to be signed by initiates. Mr. Ardeshir Cursetji Wadia, the First Indian gentleman (a Parsee) and three Mogul Merchants initiated—First anniversary meeting—Founder's medal, also called Burne's or Fundator's medal instituted and resolutions regarding same—Charter from Grand Lodge of Scotland—First two Honorary members of the Lodge—Account of inception of the Lodge by Dr Oliver in Freemason's Quarterly Review of 1844—Account of a masonic banquet in the Bombay Courrier—"Frater's" letter in the Freemason's Quarterly Review 1844—meetings in "Lodge House" behind the Police Office Mazagon ... .. 11—42

### CHAPTER III.

1845. Resolution about extra membership of members of Lodge Perseverance—Resolution of Lodge Perseverance reciprocating similar privilege.—Election of Dr. Burnes as Honorary Master of the Lodge—Brotherhood of "The Olive Branch in the East." ... .. 43—54

### CHAPTER IV.

1846. Brother Legeyt appointed master of the Lodge—Resolution of Grand Lodge regarding

fees payable by the Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter to Lodge Perseverance for use of Lodge Premises etc.—Founder's medal received from London—Resolutions prescribing how and when it should be worn by the members of the Lodge, and for every initiate being invested therewith at the time of initiation ... ..	55—60
---	-------

## CHAPTER V.

1847—49. Resolutions about reconstruction of the Lodge.—Lodge meetings held in Lodge Rooms No. 5 Grants Buildings, Colaba—Initiation of Bhugwandas Beeneeram, a Jain—the first Hindu member of the Lodge—Election of Dr. Burnes as Honorary Master of the Lodge for life—The last meeting of the Lodge attended by him—Letter to Secretary of Nilgiri Lodge, Ootacamund ... ..	61—68
--	-------

## CHAPTER VI.

1850—51. Report of Committee appointed for examining accounts from 1844 to 1850—Increase of Lodge fees—Differences between the Lodge and Lodge Perseverance regarding use of Lodge premises and dues payable to Lodge Perseverance—Correspondence between the two Lodges thereon ... ..	69—76
---	-------

## CHAPTER VII.

1852. Settlement of differences with Lodge Perseverance—Financial condition of the Lodge and investigation by a committee—Report of committee thereon and on disputes with Lodge Perseverance—Abrogation by Lodge Perseverance of Resolution regarding extra membership accorded to members of the Lodge—Revision of Bye-laws—appointment of a Finance Committee—Incident relating to Address presented by Lodge Perseverance to Brother Blowers—Apology of Brother Ashburner—Address presented to Brother Blowers by Lodge L'Anglaise St. John No. 204, Bordeaux, France through Viscount de Brons Cézérac—"Grants Buildings" Colaba, hired for meetings of Masonic bodies	77—87
---	-------

## CHAPTER VIII.

- 1853—54. First Christian initiate—Monthly subscription imposed on members of Lodge Perseverance. Abuse of right of ballot—Internal harmony disturbed—Bye-laws reprinted—Masonic banquet to Lord Fitz-Clarence—Resolution passed on retirement of Brother Legeyt. Institution of Standing Committee—Brother K. R. Cama initiated—First Past Master's Jewel presented—Charitable fund started ... 88—98

## CHAPTER IX.

1855. Legality of election of Brother W. H. S. Crawford as Master challenged—Representation to Grand Lodge thereon, and its decision—Proceedings in Lodge and fresh election of Master—Charge against Brother Maneckji Cursetji for holding private meetings outside the Lodge—Address to Brother Legeyt—Alterations in Bye-laws—Abuse of right of Ballot and animated discussion thereon—Institution of a dinner fee—First report presented by a retiring Master of his Stewardship—First Installation ceremony since the establishment of the Lodge performed by the Provincial Grand Master—"The Indian Freemason's friend" ... .. 99—111

## CHAPTER X.

1856. Lodge temporarily closed owing to a paucity of members and abuse of ballot ... .. 112—113

## CHAPTER XI.

1857. Resuscitation of the Lodge—Brother Maneckji Cursetji elected as Master—First Indian Master of the Lodge—Installation ceremony performed by the Provincial Grand Master.—The Master's address and reference to a letter written by him on 20th January 1854, to Brother Barr on the subject of Ballot—Revision of Bye-laws—Suspension of Brothers Craig, Cross and O'Mealy ... .. 114—118

## CHAPTER XII.

- 1858—59. Brother Maneckji Cursetji re-installed as Master—Contribution towards the fund

started for the Grand Lodge Temple in Scotland—Proposal for building a masonic temple in Bombay—Offer of a piece of ground by Brother Maneckji Cursetji upon certain conditions which were not acceptable to a committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to consider same—Bequest by a Brother D. Seton to the Old Lodge Perseverance for the purpose of building a temple at Bombay—Brother Maneckji Cursetji elected Master for the third time—Improving financial condition of the Lodge—Resolutions passed for holding meetings at Brother Maneckji Cursetji's residence—Resolutions passed for presenting Brother Maneckji Cursetji with an address and a Past Master's jewel and apron and for a portrait of his being placed in the Lodge Rooms. 119—126

### CHAPTER XIII.

1860—62. Address to Brother Cartwright and presentation of Founder's medal to him and contribution towards plate presented to him on his retirement from his office of Provincial Grand Master—Death of Brother Legeyt—Resolution to drink always to his memory at the festive-board—Lodge fees reduced—The Freemason's Quarterly Magazine subscribed—Donation to the National Wallace monument—Regime of Brother K. R. Cama (1862)—Revision of Bye-laws and strict enforcement of all rules—Resolution passed for printing Bye-laws and compiling a sketch of the history of the Lodge—Fine imposed on members absenting themselves from meetings without excuse—Address presented to Brother Maneckji Cursetji—Complete set of Dr. Oliver's Masonic Books ordered out—Fund of Rs. 40,000 subscribed for building a Masonic Hall for the Lodge—Plan and estimate submitted by Lodge Perseverance—Large Folio Volume of Zend Avesta by Professor Westergaard presented by Brother K. R. Cama to the Lodge—Death of Dr. Burnes—Resolution for coupling his name with that of Brother Le Geyt always at the Festive Board.. 127—140

## CHAPTER XIV.

1863. Brother M. C. Murzban initiated—Brother Maneckji Cursetji elected Honorary Member of Lodge Truth-Rejection of Brothers Judge and Wickhman as Honorary Members of the Lodge—Correspondence thereon between Brother Judge and the Lodge and between Brother Judge and Brother Maneckji Cursetji—Emergent meeting held for condoling with Brother Maneckji Cursetji on the death of his son Mr. Hiraji—Visit of Brother C. J. Tarachand to Lodge L'Anglaise No. 204 of Bordeaux and presentation by that Lodge to him of a medal and a list of its members—Scheme for a common Masonic Hall for the use of English, Scotch or Irish masons—The "Ganj-nameh presented by Brother M. C. Langrana to the Lodge .... 141—146

## CHAPTER XV.

- 1864--65. Brother A. F. Moos presented with Burne's medal for translating Bye-laws and getting them printed—"Masonic Manual" and "The Scottish Freemason's Magazine"—Resolution of regret at the death of the Duke of Athole, Grand Master Mason of Scotland—The Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall—The Indian Journal of Freemasonry—The Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror—Proposed initiation of Dastur Hoshangji Jamasji—High priest of the Decan—Past Masters of the Lodge elected by Lodge Concord of Instruction as its Honorary members—Resolution granting privilege of extra membership to members of other lodges rescinded—Offices of jeweller, Architect—Bearer of the Sacred Volume and Organist instituted—Prospectus issued in connection with the scheme for the Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall—Presentation by Brother C. N. Cama of clothing and jewels of the Provincial Grand Lodge Office-bearers—Presentation by Brother C. N. Cama of clothing of office-bearers of the Lodge with a set of jewels in silver—The Lodge proceedings printed in the Masonic Record ... 147—152

started for the Grand Lodge Temple in Scotland—Proposal for building a masonic temple in Bombay—Offer of a piece of ground by Brother Maneckji Cursetji upon certain conditions which were not acceptable to a committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to consider same—Bequest by a Brother D. Seton to the Old Lodge Perseverance for the purpose of building a temple at Bombay—Brother Maneckji Cursetji elected Master for the third time—Improving financial condition of the Lodge—Resolutions passed for holding meetings at Brother Maneckji Cursetji's residence—Resolutions passed for presenting Brother Maneckji Cursetji with an address and a Past Master's jewel and apron and for a portrait of his being placed in the Lodge Rooms. 119—126

### CHAPTER XIII.

- 1860—62. Address to Brother Cartwright and presentation of Founder's medal to him and contribution towards plate presented to him on his retirement from his office of Provincial Grand Master—Death of Brother Legeyt—Resolution to drink always to his memory at the festive-board—Lodge fees reduced—The Freemason's Quarterly Magazine subscribed—Donation to the National Wallace monument—Regime of Brother K. R. Cama (1862)—Revision of Bye-laws and strict enforcement of all rules—Resolution passed for printing Bye-laws and compiling a sketch of the history of the Lodge—Fine imposed on members absenting themselves from meetings without excuse—Address presented to Brother Maneckji Cursetji—Complete set of Dr. Oliver's Masonic Books ordered out—Fund of Rs. 40,000 subscribed for building a Masonic Hall for the Lodge—Plan and estimate submitted by Lodge Perseverance—Large Folio Volume of Zend Avesta by Professor Westergaard presented by Brother K. R. Cama to the Lodge—Death of Dr. Burnes—Resolution for coupling his name with that of Brother Le Geyt always at the Festive Board.. 127—140

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1863. Brother M. C. Murzban initiated—Brother Maneckji Cursetji elected Honorary Member of Lodge Truth-Rejection of Brothers Judge and Wickhman as Honorary Members of the Lodge—Correspondence thereon between Brother Judge and the Lodge and between Brother Judge and Brother Maneckji Cursetji—Emergent meeting held for condoling with Brother Maneckji Cursetji on the death of his son Mr. Hiraji—Visit of Brother C. J. Tarachand to Lodge L'Anglaise No. 204 of Bordeaux and presentation by that Lodge to him of a medal and a list of its members—Scheme for a common Masonic Hall for the use of English, Scotch or Irish masons—The "Ganj-nameh presented by Brother M. C. Langrana to the Lodge .... 141—146

## CHAPTER XV.

- 1864--65. Brother A. F. Moos presented with Burne's medal for translating Bye-laws and getting them printed—"Masonic Manual" and "The Scottish Freemason's Magazine"—Resolution of regret at the death of the Duke of Athole, Grand Master Mason of Scotland—The Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall—The Indian Journal of Freemasonry—The Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror—Proposed initiation of Dastur Hoshangji Jamasji—High priest of the Decan—Past Masters of the Lodge elected by Lodge Concord of Instruction as its Honorary members—Resolution granting privilege of extra membership to members of other lodges rescinded—Offices of jeweller, Architect—Bearer of the Sacred Volume and Organist instituted—Prospectus issued in connection with the scheme for the Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall—Presentation by Brother C. N. Cama of clothing and jewels of the Provincial Grand Lodge Office-bearers—Presentation by Brother C. N. Cama of clothing of office-bearers of the Lodge with a set of jewels in silver—The Lodge proceedings printed in the Masonic Record ... 147—152

## CHAPTER XVI.

- 1866—67. Brother Darasha R. Chichgur initiated—  
 Brother C. N. Cama appointed Depute  
 Master and voted Burne's medal—Objection  
 of the Lodge to Lodge St. Andrews in the  
 East No. 343 S. C. admitting residents of  
 Bombay—Representation to the Grand  
 Lodge on the subject—Presentation by  
 Brother Maneckji Cursetji of a Scotch Mace  
 with silver mountings for use of the Grand  
 Lodge—Silver Vase presented by the Lodge  
 to Brother C. N. Cama—Presentation of an  
 address and a gold jewel or plate voted to  
 Brother R. B. Barton—Masonic Library  
 projected and contribution by the Lodge  
 towards its establishment—Draft Trust Deed  
 and appointment of trustees of the land for  
 The Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall—Resolu-  
 tion of condolence on the death of Brother  
 Dr. Oliver—Enquiry into the conduct of  
 Brother Framji Bomonji .... 153—158

## CHAPTER XVII.

1868. Mastership of Brother M. C. Murzban—  
 Brother Morland presented with Founder's  
 medal—Trial of Brother Framji Bomonji  
 for a Masonic offence and his expulsion—  
 Contribution by Brother Meidinger to the  
 charity funds of the Lodge—Presentation of  
 gold plate to Brother Barton in Yarborough  
 Lodge, Brighton, by Brother Dadabhai  
 Naoroji on behalf of the Lodge—An account  
 of the proceedings in the Brighton Gazettee  
 of 24th September 1868—Brother Murzban  
 re-elected Master ... 159—169

## CHAPTER XVIII.

1869. P. M. Mehta initiated—Presentation of  
 Past Master's jewels to 5 Past Masters—  
 Government Loan Note of 4 per cent. of the  
 nominal value of Rs. 500 presented to the  
 Lodge by brother M. M. Sethna—"The Mer-  
 chant of Venice" and a Farce "Our New  
 Man" performed by the Parsi Elphinstone  
 Dramatic Club at the Grant Road Theatre  
 under the patronage of the R. W. M. Officers

and Brethren of the Lodge on 13th February 1869 and attendance of Masons in Masonic costume—Burne's gold medal voted to Brother C. N. Cama—Lectures and Instruction meetings—Three large tracing boards handsomely illuminated presented by Brother Pestonji Hormasji Cama to the Lodge ... 171—176

### CHAPTER XIX.

1870—71. Distribution of charity in distant lands and foreign countries—Presentation to Brother Murzban of Past Master's jewel, Founder's medal and silver cup and his portrait hung in the Masonic Hall—Brother Morland the Provincial Grand Master presented by a Special Deputation from Lodge Felix No. 355 S. C. of Aden with a Vellum Roll containing his appointment as Honorary Member thereof—Meetings in Masonic Hall at Mazgaon in 1870—Trust Deed of the Land endowed by Brother N. N. Framji for the Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall executed in favour of Brothers K. R. Cama and M. C. Murzban as trustees for the Lodge—Meetings in Bungalow at Gowalia Tank Road—Testimonial to the Earl of Dalhousie, Past Grand Master Mason of Soetland—Gold-jewel consisting of a key with a suitable inscription and apron with sash presented to Brother C. N. Cama and Founder's medal to Brother D. R. Chichgur—Reports of committee of representatives of the Scottish Masonic bodies anent Masonic Hall and contribution by the Lodge towards the scheme propounded thereunder .... 177—182

### CHAPTER XX.

1872—73. Regime of Brother D. R. Chichgur—Lectures on masonic subjects—Re-institution of a dinner fee—Charity funds transferred to names of four trustees—Brother K. R. Cama presented with Past Master's clothing and jewel with full masonic honours—Address of condolence to Lady Mayo—Provincial Grand Master's scheme for the formation of a general benevolent fund and building a Masonic Hall—First

visit of a Hindu Mason to the Lodge—Letter to Lodge Cyrus about admission of Hindus into the craft—Brother P. M. Mehta Master during 1873—Brother D. R. Chichgur presented with Past Master's jewel and time-piece by the Lodge and a valuable masonic work by the Right Worshipful Master—Reception of Brother Maneckji Cursetji as Honorary Depute Provincial Grand Master with the Grand Lodge—Dinner fee abolished—Funeral Lodges held for the first time since the establishment of the Lodge in memory of a member and an ex-member, who was a Past Master—Donation of Rs. 500 made by Mr. Ardeshir Merwanji Sett in memory of his father M. M. Sett ... 183—190

## CHAPTER XXI.

1874—75. Funeral lodges held in memory of a member and an ex-member—Installed Master's degree conferred—The Jamshedi Navroz Masonic Festival—Presentation of an address by the Grand Lodge A. S. F. I. and the District Grand Lodge and Masters Wardens and Brethren of all English and Scotch Lodges in Bombay on 11th November 1875 to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales as the Grand Master of the United Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted masons of England and Patron of Scotch Freemasonry—The Burne's medal presented by the Lodge to His Royal Highness on the 11th November 1875 at the hands the Grand Master, A. S. F. I., on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Prince's Dock by His Royal Highness according to masonic rites and ceremonies—Presentation of an address by the Lodge to Brother Morland on the assumption of title of Grand Master, A. S. F. I.—Lodge Banner ... 191—197

## CHAPTER XXII.

1876. Resignation of Brother Maneckji Cursetji and his election as an Honorary member—Conduct of Brother Bamonji Cursetji Ashburner in publishing a book on Freemasonry containing insuniations against its principles, etc.,

brought to the Notice of the Lodge by Brother P. M. Mehta and action of the Lodge thereon—Resignation of that brother—Brother K. R. Cama appointed life-member of the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Fund on behalf of the Lodge—Celebration of the Jamshedi Navroz Festival—Differences between Brother Darashaw R. Reporter (R. W. M.) and the Grand Master A. S. F. I. anent the non-attendance of the Grand Master at the installation of the former—Foundation of Lodge Islam and Resolution of the Lodge regarding same and Correspondence thereon with the Grand Master—Attendance of the Grand Master with the Grand Lodge Officers at a meeting of the Lodge and their withdrawal from it after the Grand Master's leaving the Founder's medal presented to him at the altar of the Lodge...	198—203
--	---------

## CHAPTER XXIII.

1877—79. Differences between the Lodge and the Grand Master made up—Treasurer's jewel voted to Brother C. N. Cama—Celebration of the Jamshedi Navroz Festival—Lodge Meetings in the Nawab's Bungalow Mazagon—Presentation of a sword to the Lodge by Brother S. J. Mehta—Funeral Lodges held in memory of Brothers R. C. Bahadurji and R. J. Nadirshaw and resolutions of condolence—Farewell demonstration and banquet in honour of Brother The Honourable Mr. Justice James Gibbs, District Grand Master of Bombay, and its territories by the District Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge A. S. F. I.—Address by the Lodge to Brother Gibbs and his reply....	204—209
---	---------

## CHAPTER XXIV.

1880--81. Election of Master made by mistake while Lodge was open in the 1st degree validated by Grand Master's special dispensation—Gold chain and pencil presented to Brother C. N. Cama—Celebration of the Jamshedi Navroz Festival—all ex-members invited to join therein—Bye-laws revised and passed
---

and reprinted—Lecture by Brother D. R. Chichgur on "Chemical facts illustrating principles of Freemasonry"—Grand Lodge scheme to form a joint stock company for the construction of a Masonic Hall, to be called "The Framji Cawasji Masonic Hall".... 210—217

## CHAPTER XXV.

1882—83, Celebration of Jamshedi Navroz Festival—European Brothern joining in it—Movement and resolution of Grand Lodge about placing Brother Maneckji Cursetji's portrait in the Freemason's Hall and committee appointed to carry out the object—Scheme of Brother K. R. Cama for life membership of the Lodge—Inquiry into the conduct of Brother M. C. Langarana for unmasonic conduct—Resolution of the Lodge to sell the land conveyed to its trustees—Masonic Hall project brought to a head—Scheme to buy a bungalow at Clare Road, Byculla, by forming a joint stock company to be called "The Framji Cawasji Freemason's Hall Association Ld." another project to build a Freemason's Hall on the Esplanade Road—a third project to build a Hall on a plot near the Young Men's Christian Association—Contribution by the Lodge of the Nawroji Nanabhai Trust Funds on certain conditions—Sale of the land conveyed to the Trustees—Brother C. S. Patel Tyler of the Lodge for 40 years presented with a gold watch—Donation to the fund for presenting a portrait of Brother Balfour on his retirement from office of Grand Master—Burne's medal presented and Honorary membership conferred on His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K. G., Past Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of ancient, free and accepted masons of England ... .. 218—232

## CHAPTER XXVI.

1884. Mastership of Brother R. M. Chichgur—Celebration of the Jamshedi Navroz Festival—Donation of Rs. 500 by Brother Naoroji Fardoonji—His Royal Highness the Prince

of Wales' plumes in carved brass gilt and silvered, presented to the Lodge by Brother Charles B. Leonard, Gunner of H. M. S. "Dragon"—Resolution for procuring a new die of the Fundator's medal—Lodge Meetings at "Huntley Lodge" Clare Road, Byculla—Brother M. C. Murzban made Honorary Depute Grand Master and Brother D. R. Chichgur, Honorary substitute Grand Master, A. S. F. I. ... .. 233—34

## CHAPTER XXVII.

1885— Bro: R. M. Chichgur re-elected Master—Lectures on Masonic subjects—General M. Mul-laby made Honorary Member—Death of Bro: C.N. Cama—Funeral Lodge in his memory—Oration by Bro: Dadabhoy Naoroji—Death of Bro: Nawroji Fardoonji—Lodge of sorrow in his memory by Grand Lodge—Testimonial and banquet to Brother D.R. Chichgur—Celebration of the Jamshedji Navroze Festival ... 235—40

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

1886— Privilege conferred by the Grand Master mason of Scotland on Brother D.R. Chichgur of wearing the Burne's medal within a wreath of Roses and Thistles—Death of Brother James Gibbs—Brother Sorabji Sapoorti Bengalee and Pestonji Hormasji Cama elected Honorary members—Jamshedji Navroze Festival celebrated ... .. 241—43

## CHAPTER XXIX.

1887— Banquet to Brother Sir Henry Morland—Celebration of the Jamshedji Navroze Festival—Death of Brother Maneckji Cursotji—Funeral Lodge in his memory—Resolutions to perpetuate his memory—Grand Lodge A.S.F.I. and District Grand Lodge and daughter lodges in mourning—Resolution to drink always to his memory at the Festive board ... 244—47

## CHAPTER XXX.

1888—89 Visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught to the Lodge—His election as an Honorary member—Picture of Brother Dr Burnes presented by

Mr C. M. Cursetji—Brother Sir William Clarke, Bart. and Dr Jullins Wilmot M. D. elected Honorary Members—jewel presented to Brother D.R. Chichgur by the Grand Master of England—Celebration of the Jamshetji Navroze Festival followed by a Discourse and entertainment—Freemason's Hall question further discussed—Deaths of Brothers H. F. Cooper—S.B. Turkhad and C. N. Pavri—Brother K. R. Cama made Depute Grand Master A.S.F.I. ... ..	248—56
---	--------

## CHAPTER XXXI.

- 1890—93 Donations by Brothers Malek-O-Tajjar (ex-Governor of Bushire) and M.M. Bhowmugree of Rs. 500 each and by Brother H. M. Chichgur of Re 1—Movement for portrait of Brother K.R. Cama to be hung in the Freemason's Hall and contribution by the Lodge—Farewell entertainment and conversazione in honour of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught—Lectures by Brother Temulji B. Nurriman (R.W.M. in 1891-92) on masonic subjects—Death of the Grand Master A.S.F.I. Captain Sir Henry Morland on 27th July 1891—Contribution by the Lodge of Rs. 100 to the Henry Morland Memorial Fund for perpetuating his memory and Resolution thereon—Hall Committee scheme to buy the Nawab of Bella's Bungalow at Grant road—Resolution of the Lodge to take Counsel's opinion regarding the gift of the Nawroji Nanabhai Trust Funds amounting to Rs. 12,000 to the Hall Committee—Congratulatory address to Brother Dadabhai Nawroji on his becoming a member of Parliament—Brother D. R. Chichgur appointed Grand Master Depute—Celebration of the 50 years' Jubilee of the Lodge—Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit Jubilee Master installed on 15th December 1893—Printed short sketch of the history of the foundation of the Lodge prepared by Brothers P.M. Kanga and P.C. Sethna circulated amongst the members and a short account of the foundation of the Lodge given by Brother K.R. Cama—Jubilee medal

struck and prominent members and Masons created Honorary members to commemorate the Jubilee—Letter to Brother W.L. Harvey Master of Lodge perseverance and his reply—Endowment by the Lodge of Rs. 2,500 in memory of Brothers Dr Burnes and Maneckji Cursetji—Donation of Rs. 2,500 each by Brothers Framji Dinshaw Petit and Sir Dinshaw Maneckji Petit Bart.—Second contribution by the Lodge of Rs. 500 to the Morland Memorial Fund—Letters from the Grand Master Mason of Scotland and the Grand Master A.S.F.I. acknowledging the printed pamphlet of the history of the Foundation of the Lodge and from various bodies and masons congratulating the Lodge on its Jubilee—Deaths of Brothers Hormasji Pestonji Cama and Sorabji Sapoorji Bengalee and funeral Lodges in their memory—Donation of Rs. 500 by Brother Nawroji Pestonji Cama—Rs. 1,000 endowed by the Lodge in memory of Brother S.S. Bengalee—Celebration of the Jamsedji Navroze Festival followed by a Discourse “The Poetry of the craft ” and an Entertainment comprising a farce called “A Sudden Arrival” and a Commedietta “Marriage by Telephone”—Attendance of European and Native ladies at the Banquet and Entertainment	... .. 256—274
--	----------------

## CHAPTER XXXII

1894—96 Congratulatory address to Brother: Currimbhoy Ebrahim on his donation of Rs. 1 lac for founding a Mahomedan Orphanage—Donation by the Brother: of Rs. 250 to the Lodge—Celebration of the Jamshedji Navroze Festival followed by a Dramatic Performance—Attendance of Ladies—Scheme of the Joint Hall Committee to acquire by hire or purchase a building or building site for a common Masonic Hall—Meetings in the Adelphi Hotel premises, Byculla—Arrival of the Jubilee medal—Presentation thereof and of a past master’s jewel and a walnut wood writing desk and a walnut wood stand to
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Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit at the Installation meeting of 1894—Brother F. D. Petit made substitute Grand Master A. S. F. I.—Death of Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit on 8th August 1895—Congratulations to Brother M. M. Bhawnuggree on his being elected a member of the British House of Commons—Presentation of the Jubilee medal to Brother C. D. Furdoonji—Celebration of the Jamshedji Navroze Festival—Scheme of the Hall Committee to acquire the present site of the Masonic Hall and its appeal to different lodges Chapters and Bodies for help and to the Lodge for a gift of the Navroji Nanabhai Trust Funds on condition of naming the large Banqueting Hall “The Framji Cawasji Banqueting Hall” and putting up a suitable tablet—Resolution of the Lodge to file a friendly suit regarding the gift of the N. N. Trust Funds as advised by the Advocate-General ... 275—283

### CHAPTER XXXIII

1897—Visit of H. E. The Rt. Honourable Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay and District-Grand Master of Bombay E. C. on the occasion of the Installation of Brother P. M. Kanga—His Lordship made Honorary member—Death of Brother Abdulla Meheralli Dharamsey—Suit No 352 of 1897 filled by the Lodge regarding the Navroji Nanabhai Trust Funds—Nomination and Installation of Lord Sandhurst as Grand Master A. S. F. I.—Foundation Stone laid by the Grand Master of the Masonic Hall on 5th June 1897—Brothers N.N. Wadia and D.R. Chichgur appointed Trustees of the Freemason’s Hall—Second visit of H. E. Lord Sandhurst to the Lodge on the occasion of the Installation of Brother P. C. Sethna, Brother H. M. Chichgur made Honorary Substitute Grand Master A. S. F. I.—Third contribution by the Lodge of Rs. 150 to the Henry Morland Memorial Fund ... .. 284—289

### Chapter XXXIV.

1898-1900 Death of Brother Burjorji Pallonji Dollimeherji.  
Funeral service in his memory and Oration by

Brother K. R. Cama—Lectures on masonic subjects—Decree in suit 352 of 1897—Gift of the Nawroji Nanabhai Trust Funds to The Hall Committee—Agreement between the Trustees of the Funds and The Hall Committee—Brother K. R. Cama nominated by the Lodge as its member of the Hall Committee—Testimonial to Brother J.W. Smith I.P.G.M.—Third visit of Lord Sandhurst to the Lodge—Investiture of Brother Dr. Pollen as Grand Master Depute A.S.F.I.—Brothers Sir Lawrence H. Jenkins (Chief Justice of Bombay) Dr. Pollen and I. M. Shields made Honorary members—The Framji Cawasji Banqueting Hall & Tablet—Attempt to revive the Jamshedi Navroze Festival—Consecration of the Masonic Hall by Lord Sandhurst on 25-3-99—Anonymous donation of Rs. 5,000—to the Hall, Building Fund to perpetuate His Lordship's Regime—One rupee testimonial to Brother D. R. Chichgur in recognition of his services as Secretary to the Hall Committee and presentation of a silver bowl and cup to him—Deaths of Brothers N. N. Wadia, J. C. Cama and Manekshaw Jehangirshaw Talyarkhan—Funeral lodges in their memory—Farewell banquet to Lord Sandhurst on 9-2-1900—Presentation of an Autograph album to Brother D. R. Chichgur in special recognition of his services to Masonry and particularly as Secretary to the Hall Committee—Congratulations to Brother M. M. Bhownugree on his re-election as a member of Parliament—Lord Sandhurst succeeded by Lord Northcote as Grand Master A. S. F. I.	... .. 290—301
--	----------------

## Chapter XXXV

1901—03 Death of H. M. Queen Victoria—Resolution passed by the Lodge thereon at meeting held on 9th February 1901—Death of Brother Captian C. D. Wise—Contribution by the Lodge towards the MemorialPurse fund raised by the Grand Lodge A. S. F. I.—The Framji Petit Council—Brother M. M. Bhownuggree made Honorary Grand Master Depute—Deaths of Brothers Dr.
--

Ismail Janmahomed—Dossabhai Framji Karaka C. S. I. and Rehimtoola M. Sayani—Resolution regarding Lodge Library—Lectures on masonic subjects—Completion of the 6th decade of the Lodge on 15th, December 1903	... 303—309
--	-------------

## CHAPTER XXXVI

1904—05 Attempt by Brother Maneck R. Sethna (R. W. M. in 1904) to revive the Jamsedi Navroze Festival—Sorting and location of Lodge Records—New die of the Fundator's medal—Death of Brother K. N. Kabraji—Election of Bro. R. H. J. Rustomji—Lively debate thereon and retirement from meeting of Brother K. R. Cama during the ballot—Resolution congratulating Sir P. M. Mehta on the Knighthood conferred on him by His Majesty the King Emperor—Surprise visit to the Lodge of the ceremonial committee of the Grand Lodge. A. S. F. I. and their complete satisfaction with its excellent working—Celebration of the Unique event of 50 Year's Masonic Jubilee of Brother K. R. Cama—Resolutions of the Lodge at an emergent meeting held on 24th August 1904 congratulating Brother K. R. Cama and reply of Brother K. R. Cama—Appointment of H. E. The Rt. Hon. Lord Lamington Governor of Bombay as Grand Master A. S. F. I.—Marble bust of Brother D. R. Chichgur unveiled in The Masonic Hall by His Excellency on 4th August, 1904—Brother Sir L. H. Jenkins presented with the Burne's medal—Lord Lamington elected Honorary Member of the Lodge—Resolution passed at an emergent meeting congratulating Brother Sir Currimbhai Ebrahim on the knighthood bestowed on him by His Majesty the King Emperor—Donation by Sir Currimbhai Ebrahim of Rs. 500 to the charity funds of the Lodge	... 310—321
--	-------------

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

1906—08. First Official Visit of H. E. Lord Lamington Grand Master at the Installation of Brother D. F. Wadia—Death of Brother Hormasji M.
--

Chichgur—Revision of Bye-laws—Office of Chaplain instituted—Lodge fees raised to Rs. 400—Visit of Brother C. H. Captain to Lodge Benjamin B. French No. 15 Washington U. S. A.—Laying of the foundation Stone of the Sir. William Moore Operation Theatre at the Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai Hospital with Masonic rites by Lord Lamington.—Donation by Brother D. F. Wadia of Rs. 500 to the charity funds of the Lodge.—Project of equipping the Masonic Hall with Electric lights and fans and contribution of the Lodge thereto.—Presentation of the Cama Masonic Jubilee Volume to Brother K. R. Cama with an address at a Special Meeting held on 12th March 1907 by Lord Lamington Grand Master—Masonic Lectures—Donation by Brother K. B. Sharoff of Rs. 500 to the charity funds of the Lodge—Fund started for oil painting of Lord Lamington—Contribution of the Lodge thereto—Death of Brother Dossabhai Dadabhai Albless—50 copies of the Cama Masonic Jubilee volume and Rs. 58-13 presented to the Lodge by Brother J. J. Mody—Further contribution of Rs. 400, by the Lodge to the Electric Lights Fund—Contribution to the Hyderabad Relief Fund—Complete register of the members of the Lodge from 15th December 1843 to 15th December 1908 compiled by Brother D. F. Wadia presented to the Lodge—Brother D. R. Wadia's donation of Rs. 500 on his installation as Master associated with the name of his Grandfather the late Brother Ardeshir Cursetji Wadi and Brother Pheroze C. Sethna's donation of Rs. 500 in memory of his father—First official visit of Most Wor. Brother Col. R. H. Foreman, Grand Master. A. S. F. I. at the installation meeting held on 16th December 1908... 322—330

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

1909—11. Death of Brother K. R. Cama on 20th August 1909 after an Unique masonic career of 55 years of continued activity.—Special Fu-

nera Grand Lodge held in his memory by the Grand Lodge A.S.F.I. on 20th September 1909 and Resolutions passed by Grand Lodge—Steps taken by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Brother Foreman for perpetuating his memory by (I) the Cama Memorial Fund and (II) a Memorial Tablet—Resolutions passed by the Lodge on the death of Brother Cama—Sermon by Brother D. R. Chichgur—Rs. 1000/—set apart from the Lodge Charity Funds in his name as an endowment to be supplemented by donations from individual members—Resolution to drink to his memory at the Festive Board—Public meeting held in memory of Brother K. R. Cama under the chairmanship of H. E. Sir George Sydenham Clarke, Governor of Bombay—Death of Brother Dadabhai S. Munsiffna and a donation of Rs. 500 in his memory by a respected member of the Lodge—Donation of Rs. 500/- by Brother Darashaw Bejonji Mehta (R. W. M, 1910) towards the charity funds of the Lodge—Resolution congratulating Brother Sir Currimbhai Ebrahim Bart., on his munificent gift of Rs. 4 lacs for a College of Science and on the title of Baronetcy conferred on him by H. M. The King Emperor—Death of His most Most Gracious Majesty Edward VII on 6th May 1910 and Resolution passed by the Lodge thereon—The In Memoriam Tablet of Brother K. R. Cama with a Medallion of the deceased Brother surmounting it erected and placed in the Masonic Hall—Honorary membership conferred on M. W. Brother Colonel Forman and Burne's medal presented to him—Brother P. C. Sethna made substitute Grand Master and Brother Meherally Dewraj Master created Honorary Substitute Grand Master—History of the Lodge from 1843 to 1910 compiled by Brother D. F. Wadia and presented to the Lodge at the Installation meeting held on 16th December 1910—Resolution of the Lodge for publishing the History and presenting an Edition de luxe with the Resolution embodied

therein and also a Historian's jewel commemorative of the event to Brother D. F. Wadia—Death of Brother A. F. Unwalla—Funeral Lodge held in his memory—Fund for perpetuating the services rendered by Brother Colonel Forman to Freemasonry and for retaining a fitting memorial of same and presenting a Souvenir to him and contribution by the Lodge thereto—Brother The Hon'ble Dr. Tamulji B. Nariman appointed Grand Master Depute A. S. F. I. (1911)—Unveiling by him of the marble medallion of Brother K. R. Cama on 11th November 1911—History of the Lodge brought up to 1911... 331—347

#### APPENDIX A.

Charter of the Lodge granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland ... 348-361

#### APPENDIX B

Letters from Honorary members of the Lodge ... 351-359

#### APPENDIX C

Letter from Bro: Maneckji Cursetji to the Secretary Nilghiri Lodge ... 359-361

#### APPENDIX D

Correspondence with Lodge Perseverance regarding use of Lodge rooms ... 361-368

#### APPENDIX E

Report of Special Committee on differences between the Lodge and Lodge Perseverance ... 368-371

#### APPENDIX F

Letter of apology from Bro. C. E. Ashburner... 372

#### APPENDIX G

Testimonial from Lodge L'Anglais, Bordeaux, to Bro. Blowers ... 372-373

#### APPENDIX H

Letter from Provincial Grand Secretary to the R. W. Master of the Lodge anent election of Bro. W. H. S. Crawford and Bro. M. M. Settna's statement ... 373-377

## APPENDIX I

Bro. Maneckji Cursetji's letter to Bro. Barr on the subject of ballot dated 20th July 1854	...	...	...	377-384
--	-----	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX J

Address presented to Bro. Maneckji Cursetji and his reply thereto	...	...	...	...	385-388
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX K

Letters from Bro. Dr. Oliver and other distinguished masons on presentation of the Founder's Medal to them	...	...	...	...	388-392
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX L

Correspondence between Bro. Maneckji Cursetji and the Lodge and between him and Bro G. S. Judge, and betwee the Lodge and Bro. G. S. Judge	...	...	...	392-397
--	-----	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX M

Letter from the Secretary of the Lodge to the Provincial Grand Secretary protesting against Lodge St. Andrews in the East initiating residents of Bombay	...	...	397-399
--	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX N

Trust Deed dated 3rd May 1870	...	...	400-408
-------------------------------	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX O

Letter from the Master of the Lodge to the W. M. of Lodge Cyrus	...	...	408-410
---	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX P

Address presented to Bro. The Hon'ble James Gibbs and reply thereto	...	...	410-415
---	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX Q

Decree in High Court suit No. 352 of 1897	...	...	416-420
---	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX R

Agreement dated 18-11-1898 between the Hall Committee and the Trustees of the Trust Deed, dated 3-5-1870	...	...	420-422
--	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX S

Address presented to Bro. K. R. Cama	...	...	423-424
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	---------

## APPENDIX T

Correspondence between the R. W, Master of the Lodge and the Grand Master and Secretary, Grand Lodge on the occasion of the death of Bro. K. R. Cama	...	...	424-430
--	-----	-----	---------

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

---

Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. James Burnes	...	...	...Back of title page
Rt. Wor. Bro. Maneckji Cursetji	...	...	" "
Burnes Medal, (Obverse and Reverse)	...	...	Facing p. 27
Lodge Banner	...	...	" p. 196
Jubilee Medal (Obverse)	...	...	" p. 276
Do. do. (Reverse)	...	...	" p. 276
Historian's Jewel	...	...	" p. 340
Rt. Wor. Bro. K. R. Cama In Memoriam Tablet and Medallion	...	...	" p. 340
Group of Members of the Lodge	...	...	" p. 346



# LIST OF PAST MASTERS OF THE LODGE.

From 1843 to 1911.

1843-46...	Rt. Wor. Bro.	Dr. James Burnes, K. H.
1847	...	P. W. LeGeyt
1848	...	H. B. Lynch
1849	...	Dr. James Burnes, K. H.
1850	...	H. Barr
1851	...	W. Blowers
1852	...	H. B. Lynch and M. Boyce
1853	...	P. W. LeGeyt
1854	...	M. O'Mealy
1855	...	W. S. Crawford
1856-7	...	John Evans
1857-9	...	Manockjee Cursetjee
1860-61...	...	Ardesir Jamsetjee Bhajeewalla
1861-2	...	K. R. Cama
1863	...	Merwanjee Maneckjee Settna
1864	...	Nowrosjee Nanabhoy Framjee
1865	...	Dossabhoy R. Kolha
1866	...	Cursetjee Jehangir Tarachand
1867	...	Rustomjee Cawasjee Bahadurjee
1868-9	...	M. C. Murzban, C. I. E. Khan Bahadur
1870	...	Jehangir Gustadjee
1871	...	Jejibhoy Jehangir Lam and Jehangir Gustadjee
1872	...	Darasha R. Chichgar, Khan Bahadur
1873	...	Sir Pherozechaw M. Mehta K. C. I. E.
1874	...	Jamsetjee Dhunjfbhoy Wadia
1875	...	Dr. Rustomjee Jamsedjee Nadershaw
1876	...	Darashaw D. Reporter
1877	...	Rustomjee Marwanjee Patell
1878-9	...	Hormusjee Dadabhoy
1880-2	...	Hormusjee M. Chichgar
1882	...	C. F. Khory.
1883	...	Nowrosjee Furdunji. C. I. E.
1884-5	...	Rustam M. Chichgar
1886	...	Maneckshaw D. Doctor
1887	...	Nanabhai R. Chichgar

PAST MASTER—*contd.*

1888-9	...Rt.	Wor.	Bro.	Sir Munchershaw M. Bhowmagree, K.C.I.E.
1890	...	"	"	Kaikhoshru N. Kabrajee
1891-2	...	"	"	Dr. Temuljee B. Nariman, K.I.H.
1893	...	"	"	Rustom K.R. Cama
1894	...	"	"	Framjee D. Petit
1895	...	"	"	Maneckshaw J. Talyarkhan
1896	...	"	"	Fazulbhoy Visram, C.I.E.
1897	...	"	"	Pestonji M. Kanga
1898-9	...	"	"	Phiroze C. Sethna
1900	...	"	"	Sir Dinshaw M. Petit, Bart.
1901	...	"	"	Dr. Framji J. Patel
1902	...	"	"	Pherozechaw N. Pleader
1903	...	"	"	Cursetjee H. Captain
1904	...	"	"	Maneck R. Settna
1905	...	"	"	Ardeshir F. Unwalla
1906	...	"	"	Dosabhoy F. Wadia
1907	...	"	"	Dr. Dosabhoy C. Sethna
1908	...	"	"	" Kavasji B. Shroff
1909	...	"	"	" Dhunjibhoy R. Wadia
1910	...	"	"	Darasha Bazonji Mehta
1911	...	"	"	Dr. Sorab C. Hormusjee

# HISTORY OF

## ... LODGE RISING STAR

### OF WESTERN INDIA No. 342 S.C.

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#### ERRATA.

<i>Page</i>	<i>Line</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
vii	4th	Wickhman	Wickham
xix	35th	Wadi	Wadta
47	9th	acquired...	required
62	20th	is	in
69	27th	Rs. 386	Rs. 286
100	2nd	subsequenet	subsequent
100	30th	admissable	admissible
102	19th	found it	found indispensable
108	30th	circumstances, his	circumstances, and on account of his
142	20th	numbers	Members
144	26th	J. C.	C. J.
156	31st	recognitio	recognition of
160	28th	Furdunji and	Furdunji dated
175	28th	Meetings,	Meeting,
200	6th	and one	and on one
210	4th	first lodge	first degree
222	6th	Honarary	Honorary
231	10th	of function	of the function
291	6th	initiations,	initiations
316	10th	he has	he had
338	6th	Khuvshedji	Khurshedji
340	27th	lewiises	lewises
340A	In Memo- riam block	Died August 24	August 20th
341	28th	is at p	is at p 340 (a)
346	30th	R. Chichgur has	R. Chichgur had
378	8th	white ballot	white ball
383	26th	requisitions	acquisitions

... to the being admitted into the Order. In those days it was rather difficult for members of the European community to know the qualifications and decide on the eligibility of natives to entrance in the Order.

Therefore, while in England, Brother Maneckji Cursetji was to be made a Mason under the auspices of the

PAST MASTER—*contd.*

1888-9	...	Rt. Wor. Bro. Sir Munchershaw M. Bhowagree, K.C.I.E.
1890	... "	" " Kaikhoshru N. Kabrajee
1891-2	... "	" " Dr. Temuljee B. Nariman, K.I.H.
1893	... "	" " Rustom K.R. Cama
1894	... "	" " Framjee D. Petit
1895	... "	" " Maneckshaw J. Talyarkhan
1896	... "	" " Fazulbhoy Visram, C.I.E.

# HISTORY OF LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA No. 342 S.C.

## CHAPTER I.

LODGE Rising Star of Western India, No. 342, on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, was specially inaugurated and constructed for the admission of the natives of India into the Masonic Craft. Its foundation was due to the late Right Worshipful Brother Maneckji Cursetji, who started a movement which, with his indomitable energy and praiseworthy and unflagging zeal, he ultimately succeeded in carrying out. Before he went to England, in the year 1841, it had been suggested to him by Right Worshipful Brother Dr. James Burnes, K. H., who was then the most distinguished Mason in Western India, and a coadjutor of his, Brother P. W. Le Geyt, that he should become a Mason, and he made an application to, and was proposed in, the old Lodge Perseverance, No. 546, but the members of that lodge who were then under the English banner objected to his admission, not on the ground of any personal disqualifications or demerits, but solely because he was a native, and they argued that if they opened the portals of Masonry to one native, they would be obliged to open it to all, and would not know where to end and therefore demurred to his being admitted into the Craft. In those days it was rather difficult for members of the European community to know the qualifications and decide on the eligibility of natives to entrance in the Order.

Therefore, while in England, Brother Maneckji Cursetji was to be made a Mason under the auspices of the

Duke of Sussex, the uncle of Queen Victoria, who was then the Grand Master of England, and had received with favour the agitation for admitting natives, sometime previously carried on, but when he was there the Grand Master was on the Continent and when Brother Maneckji Cursetji left for the Continent the Grand Master returned to England. He was thus disappointed, but when he subsequently went to Paris he achieved his aim and was initiated in Lodge A. La Gloire de l'Univers, one of the first lodges in Paris which worked under the Warrant of Dispensation from his friend the Duke of Cazé, the Most Venerable of the Grand Orient of France, and was therefore the first native gentleman of Western India who was admitted into our venerable Order and was necessarily the pioneer in the matter.

To the spirit of French Masonry, therefore, the natives of India, owe the kindling and diffusion of Masonic Light.

In the meantime a great change had taken place in Bombay. Brother Dr. Burnes, who had come out some six or seven years before this time with special powers from the then Grand Master of England, the Right Honourable James Lord Ramsay, to create Provincial Grand Lodges, but upon the terms that they should be held under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, had just then, on the 10th December, 1842, constituted certain Masonic brethren of high position, who had previously belonged to the old lodge Perseverance, but had left it and were at the time unconnected with any Masonic lodge, into a new, namely, the present Lodge Perseverance, under the Scottish banner.

After his return to Bombay, about the year 1843, Brother Maneckji Cursetji was asked to visit Lodge Perseverance and this he declined to do. He was then proposed as a joining member in that lodge, but on a ballot, which was taken on 3rd May, 1843, he was rejected.

Brother Philip William Le Geyt, who was then the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Western India and a member of Lodge Perseverance, and many other distinguished Masons then, it is said, came to the resolution rather to resign the lodge, if Brother Maneckji Cursetji was not admitted, and to open a new lodge for the admittance of natives. The question was thereupon seriously discussed and the agitation assumed a definite shape.

Several members of Lodge Perseverance, who were prominent Masons at the time, and other Masons who concurred in the views of Brother Maneckji Cursetji and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Western India considered that it was but just and advisable in the interests of the Craft that entrance into the Order should not be refused to native gentlemen of recognised respectability and character, and the happy idea was conceived of establishing a lodge specially for natives.

The destinies of Freemasonry in India were still then in the hands of the very sympathetic and high-minded Dr. James Burnes, as Provincial Grand Master of Western India, and he cordially encouraged the idea.

Under such favourable circumstances a requisition signed by twenty-seven leading Masons, most of whom were members of Lodge Perseverance, and dated the 19th November, 1843, was then presented to the Provincial Grand Master of Western India praying that the signatories might be constituted by dispensation into a lodge; that he, the Provincial Grand Master, should give it a name and constitute himself the Worshipful Master thereof, and nominate the first officers thereof and provide them with a formal charter. Two more names were then subsequently added to the requisition by direction of the Provincial Grand Master. Some of the requisitionists, who were members of Lodge Perseverance, were apprehensive of an objection being raised by the Provincial Grand Master to the granting of the request on the

ground that the new lodge, if established, would interfere with that lodge, and in order to meet such objection they in anticipation declared by the requisition that they had no intention of withdrawing therefrom, and pledged themselves not to grant any degree in Masonry in the proposed lodge to any European except with his (the Provincial Grand Master's) special sanction.

The pledge, however, was not agreed to by six of the brethren signing the requisition, as appears from the remarks made by them against their signatures. The requisition was as follows :—

*Bombay, 19th November, 1843.*

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER

JAMES BURNES, K.H.,

*Provincial Grand Master of Western India.*

Right Worshipful and Dear Brother,

We beg to represent to you that the time has, in our opinion, arrived when, for the credit of the Masonic Craft itself as well as in justice to some highly esteemed individuals, native gentlemen of recognised respectability and character, such for instance as those who have been selected by the Government to sit on the bench of justices, or others who can be well and worthily recommended as possessing a fear of God, and a due sense of moral obligation should no longer be excluded from our lodges at this place.

2. We are further of opinion that the admission of natives of the class we have mentioned at the present moment would give a decided impulse to the Craft at Bombay, which would be advantageous to every branch of it throughout India.

3. But after the unwillingness which has been evinced in the Lodge Perseverance to the admission of natives, we conceive that the object we have in view could only be accomplished in a manner satisfactory to all parties by the establishment of a new lodge in Bombay.

4. We therefore request that you will erect and constitute us by dispensation into a Lodge, giving a name to, and constituting yourself the Worshipful Master of the same, nominating the first officers thereof and also providing us with a formal charter at your early convenience.

5. The only objection to this proposal which we can anticipate on your part is that it may interfere with the Lodge Perseverance, but those of us who are members of that Lodge have no intention of withdrawing from it, that we hereby declare our resolution to work in true brotherly love with Perseverance. To show clearly, however, our object and feeling we pledge ourselves, if the new lodge is established, not to grant any degree of Masonry in it to any European whatever unless under your own special sanction. The arrangement, therefore, so far from injuring Perseverance would in all probability materially benefit it by the spur it would give to Masonry generally in Western India.

We are,

Right Worshipful and Dear Brother,

Your attached and faithful Brother,

P. W. Le Gayt, P. M.

| Edward F. Danvers,

(My only doubt is whether we are justified in giving the pledge contained in para. 5.)

W. A. Purnell.

| W. Wellis.

George Buist.

| H. Gibb.

W. Simson.

| R. Brown.

James Boyd, P. M. and G. P. S. B.

H. Barr. (But I object to the pledge contained in para. 5.)

A. Forster, R. A. and P. M.

| George Rowley.

H. Fawcett.

(Saving the pledge.)

D. Davidson.

| A. Larkworthy,

Gregor Grant.

| A. S. Unwin.

Spencer Compton.

| J. F. Morrier.

(Saving the pledge.)

| Maneckji Cursetji.

| M. Willoughby.

W. W. Cargill. (Subscribe to all except para. 5.)

H. G. Gordon.

| John Mullaby.

J. C. Ibbs. (But disagree to the pledge.)

R. H. Davidson.

| W. Blowers.

G. Munbee.

| G. Kingstone.

The names of Brothers Blowers and Kingstone were added by direction of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master.

The signatories to the requisition, besides being Masons of high standing and repute, were men occupying important and responsible positions and offices under Government and otherwise. Three of them, namely Brothers Le Geyt, Simson and Grant, were members of the Civil Service of the Honourable East India Company. Ten belonged to the Honourable East India Company's Military Service; namely, Brothers Wellis, Barr, Forster, D. Davidson, Unwin, Willoughby, Mullaby, Munbee, Rowley and Kingstone. One belonged to the Indian Navy, namely, Brother Ibbs. Five belonged to the Medical Service, namely, Brothers Boyd, Purnell, Gibb, Brown and Morrier. Two belonged to the judiciary, namely, Brothers Spencer Compton and Danvers, who were magistrates, and of the remaining brethren Brother Maneckji Cursetji was an Assistant Collector, and Brother W. Blowers was Deputy Postmaster General, Brother Larkworthy was a M.D., Brother Buist was an LL.D. and the Editor of the *Bombay Times*, Brother Cargill was the Managing Director of the Bank of Western India, and Brothers Fawcett and Gordon were merchants. As to Brother R. H. Davidson it does not appear to what service, profession or trade he belonged.

It will thus be seen how influential and representative a body the requisitionists formed.

A reply was sent to their requisition by Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes on 1st December, 1843, and it is impossible not to be struck with the high character and lofty mind of its writer, or to be indelibly impressed with the pronouncement of Masonic principles and privileges therein contained. To notice briefly or even to give a short summary of, or scattered extracts from, that reply would be doing the greatest injustice to that noble Mason

whose correct estimate of staunch fidelity to the principles of our most venerable institution and whose cordial sympathy with the movement which during the last sixty-six years has justified itself, gave the natives of India a lodge which for years past has, according to independent testimony, been holding a most prominent position in Scottish Freemasonry.

This reply is an important document, and in itself a strong and stable landmark and a faithful guide. It was as follows :—

To

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER P.W. LE GEYT,  
*Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Western India,*  
*Bombay.*

Right Worshipful and Dear Brother,

I have been favoured with an address signed by you and twenty-six other worthy brethren pointing out the injustice as well as the inexpediency of longer continuing to debar from Masonic privileges native gentlemen who are of acknowledged respectability and character holding responsible offices under Government, and who can be well and worthily recommended by brethren as possessing a fear of God and a due sense of moral obligation, and for reasons therein clearly stated requesting my warrant and authority for the establishment of a new lodge into which they may be received and of which you desire me to accept the chair and to nominate the other office bearers.

*Secondly.*—To such a proposition emanating, Right Worshipful Brother, from yourself and supported by so many other eminent brethren, I feel that I have but one reply to offer, namely that I am ready to give effect to your wish, and to further to the utmost of my ability the object you have in view. You and the other brethren who have signed the requisition have, I doubt not, seriously considered the probable result of so important

a proceeding and the solemn responsibility which must attach to the members of such a lodge as you contemplate to establish, which in consenting to reward a few of the natives most distinguished for honour and probity by admission to Masonic privileges, must likewise be prepared vigorously to resist the influx of many who may be urgent to participate in, but whom it may be necessary to exclude from, our venerable institution.

*Thirdly.*—Although I have never contemplated anything approaching to the free admission of natives into the Craft, I have long looked forward to the time when in the spread of civilization and to aid its progress it would be becoming or rather imperative on us, as enlightened men and Masons, to throw our portals open to particular individuals, and I know no class from amongst whom a selection for this purpose may with greater propriety be made than the highly respectable, intelligent and enterprising community of Bombay; nor, I may be allowed to add, any body of European brethren to whom the choice of the native gentlemen to be so honoured may be more safely entrusted than to yourself, and those who are associated with you in the present requisition.

*Fourthly.*—With these views of the subject, I have desired the Provincial Grand Secretary to prepare at once a dispensation authorizing yourself and the various other brethren who have signed the application to constitute yourselves into a new lodge which under the peculiar circumstances of its establishment will be designated “The Rising Star of Western India,” and for which a regular charter will be obtained without delay, agreeable to your request.

*Fifthly.*—On an occasion like the present it would not become me to shrink from responsibility, and I consequently, on the same principle that I accepted the chair of Perseverance at a former time of emergency, now

accept the honour which you tender me of the mastership of the new lodge requesting that you, Right Worshipful Brother, will personally aid me by officiating as Past Master.

*Sixthly.*—You do me but justice in anticipating that no agreement would be satisfactory to me by which injury would be inflicted on the Lodge Perseverance, to the members of which the Craft generally of India, and myself personally, owe a deep debt of gratitude, but far from believing that the establishment of the new lodge will injure Perseverance, I concur in the opinion expressed in your application that it will give an impulse to that lodge; and that such is also the conscientious belief of some of those the most interested and best able to judge, is evident from the names of many of the most prominent and zealous members of Perseverance being attached to your requisition.

*Seventhly.*—This fact, as well as the circumstance of my taking the chair of the new lodge, will, I trust, be an earnest to Perseverance that the resolution is to work in brotherly love and kindness towards her; but to remove all doubt on this point I now, in availing myself of the privilege you have given me of nominating the officers, beg to appoint the present Worshipful Master of Perseverance, Brother A. Larkworthy, and the present Junior Warden, Brother Spencer Compton, to be respectively the Senior Warden and Senior Deacon of the new lodge, and Brother James Boyd, Past Senior Warden of Perseverance, and Brother W. Wellis, Past Senior Deacon of the same, to be respectively the Treasurer and Junior Deacon of the same. To the vacant appointments of Junior Warden and Secretary I also nominate Brothers Henry Fawcett and Maneckji Cursetji, the former being well entitled to office from his zeal and the latter being likely to prove highly useful as Secretary to the new lodge.

*Eighthly.*—These arrangements will, I conceive, so completely blend the interests of Perseverance and Rising Star of Western India together that I would submit to the latter the propriety of reconsidering at its first meeting the pledge you have given in the 5th para. of your requisition which appears to be unsatisfactory to some of the brethren who have signed the paper and the object of which may probably be obtained by some other arrangement satisfactory to both lodges.

*Ninthly.*—In conclusion, I would suggest that a code of bye-laws defining clearly the rules under which native gentlemen can be received into the new lodge, should be immediately established not only requiring the strictest and most deliberate scrutiny into the character of all candidates but imposing such restrictions as may be deemed requisite to guard the interest and honour of the Craft.

*Tenthly* —Praying earnestly, Right Worshipful and Dear Brother, that the Grand Architect of the Universe may prosper you, and all other brethren associated with you on the present occasion in this and all other laudable undertakings,

I beg to subscribe myself,  
Affectionately and fraternally yours,

JAMES BURNES,

*P. G. Master of Western India.*

*Bombay, 1st December, 1843.*

A copy of this communication has been transmitted to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge Perseverance for its information.

SPENCER COMPTON,

*P.P.G.S.*

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## CHAPTER II.

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THE establishment of the Lodge was hailed with feelings of brotherly love by lodge Perseverance, for at a meeting held by them on 1st December, 1843, a letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary to them intimating the grant of the dispensation to the lodge was read and a resolution was passed by them allowing the lodge to meet in their rooms.

On the 11th December, 1843, a circular was issued over the signature of Brother Compton, Past Provincial Grand Secretary, to the brethren who had signed the requisition inviting them to meet the Provincial Grand Master at the Town Hall, on the 15th December, 1843, in order that they might be duly constituted into a lodge to be designated "The Lodge Rising Star of Western India" and intimating that at that meeting it would be submitted that the bye-laws of Lodge Perseverance (a copy of which was therewith circulated) should be immediately adopted for the government of the new lodge except certain clauses thereof particularly mentioned, as to which the circular stated certain modifications (also set out therein) would be submitted.

A meeting was accordingly held at the Town Hall, on 15th December, 1843, at which there were present the Provincial Grand Master of Western India, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Western India, and Brothers Compton, Simson, D. Davidson, Maneckji Cursetji, Barr, Larkworthy, Morrier, and Boyd. The requisition to the Provincial Grand Master and the reply thereto, as also the circular convening the meeting and the

warrant prepared for the lodge, were read and then the Provincial Grand Master declared the brethren present to be a lawfully constituted Lodge of Freemasons to work under the Warrant and to be designated "The Lodge Rising Star of Western India." The Warrant, as is stated therein, was granted by the Provincial Grand Master by virtue of the powers vested in him by a Patent (an attested copy whereof was, it is also stated therein, furnished to the brethren) and authorized the brethren to carry on in the lodge the work of the three degrees of St. John or Craft Masonry, agreeably to the rules and usages of our ancient Order. It was signed and sealed by the Provincial Grand Master and is dated 15th December, 1843, A. D., and of Masonry 5843. This Warrant is the birthright of the lodge and a full copy of it is as follows :—

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WESTERN  
INDIA.

To all free and faithful brethren in the Craft Greeting. Whereas a representation has been made by the following brethren, *viz.*, P. W. Le Geyt, E. F. Danvers, W. A. Purnell, G. Buist, W. Simson, James Boyd, W. Wellis, H. Gibb, R. Brown, H. J. Barr, A. Forster, H. Fawcett, D. Davidson, Gregor Grant, Spencer Compton, A. Larkworthy, J. S. Unwin, J. F. Morrier, Maneckji Cursetji, M. Willoughby, W. W. Cargill, H. G. Gordon, John Mullaby, J. C. Ibbs, G. B. Munbee, R. H. Davidson, and George Rowley, all of whom are known to me as true and faithful members of the Masonic Fraternity, and residents of Bombay, that having the prosperity of Masonry at heart, and the desire to promote and diffuse its genuine principles they are solicitous of being formed into a Lodge of Freemasons at Bombay, and required my consent and authority to that effect. Be it known, therefore, that I having full and perfect confidence in the said brethren, do, in virtue of the powers vested in me by a

Patent (an attested copy of which has been furnished to the said brethren) hereby constitute, erect and appoint them a lawful Lodge of Freemasons to be held at Bombay, under the designation and style of "Lodge Rising Star of Western India" to carry on therein the work of the three degrees of St. John's or Craft Masonry agreeably to the rules and usages of our ancient Order, and I do further, in compliance with the urgent request of the said brethren, assume the office of the first Worshipful Master thereof and nominate and appoint the under-mentioned brethren to be the other officers of the said Lodge Rising Star of Western India until St. John's Day, 27th December 1844, namely :—

P. W. Le Geyt	...	...	...	<i>Past Master.</i>
A. Larkworthy	...	...	...	<i>Senior Warden.</i>
H. Fawcett	...	...	...	<i>Junior Warden.</i>
Spencer Compton	...	...	...	<i>Senior Deacon.</i>
W. Wellis	...	...	...	<i>Junior Deacon.</i>
Maneckji Cursetji	...	...	...	<i>Secretary.</i>
James Boyd	...	...	...	<i>Treasurer.</i>

In witness whereof I have appended my hand and seal at Bombay this 15th day of December in the year of our Lord 1843, and of Masonry 5843 in the presence of the brethren whose signatures are hereto attached.

James Burnes	...	...	<i>Provincial Grand Master of Western India.</i>
Spencer Compton	...	...	<i>Past Provincial Grand Secretary.</i>
W. A. Purnell	...	...	<i>Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon and Provincial Grand Marshal.</i>
John Mullaby	...	...	<i>Past Provincial Grand Registrar.</i>

Brother Maneckji Cursetji had, it appears, undertaken with the Provincial Grand Master and his deputy that he

would see that none but the most worthy natives of the class for whose reception the lodge was founded would be admitted into its portals, and the records of the lodge show how thoroughly he acquitted himself of that responsibility to the best of his knowledge, power and ability.

The Provincial Grand Master assumed the office of the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge and appointed as his first office bearers the brethren whose names with their respective offices appear set out in the Warrant. At this meeting three resolutions were unanimously passed, *viz*:— (I) That Brothers Blowers and Kingstone, whose names were attached to the said requisition after the dispensation warrant had been prepared, be held to be the original members of the Lodge ; (II) that the then existing bye-laws of Lodge Perseverance with certain exceptions, *viz*., clauses 1, 22 and 23 should guide the lodge until the St. John's Day, 24th June, 1844 ; and (III) that no member should be required to subscribe monthly to the lodge who paid a monthly subscription to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India or the Lodge Perseverance of Bombay.

The excepted clauses of the bye-laws of Lodge Perseverance related to the holding of regular meetings, the interval between each degree and the fees, and in regard to those matters it was provided that the regular meetings should be held six times a year, namely, on the 15th of January, March, May, July, September, and November, and if the 15th should fall on a Sunday, then on the 14th of the same month, that the interval between each degree should be three months, instead of one month, and that the fees should be Rupees two hundred for initiation, Rupees forty for the second degree, Rupees sixty for the third degree, and Rupees fifty for joining. The corresponding fees except for the second degree in Lodge Perseverance were much less. They were Rupees seven-

ty-five for initiation, Rupees forty for raising, and Rupees five for joining. The fee for passing in Lodge Perseverance was also Rupees forty.

“Rising Star” was thus the second lodge established in Bombay under the Scottish banner (the first being Perseverance) and the third in the whole of Western India, the first being Lodge Hope of Karachi No. 337 S.C. founded by the famous conqueror of Scinde, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Napier, under a Warrant from Brother Dr. Burnes in the year 1842, and the second being Perseverance.

It was at the very meeting held at the Town Hall on 15th December, 1843, that four gentlemen were proposed for initiation to be ballotted for at the next meeting. They were Mr. Ardeshir Cursetji Wadia (the first native gentleman admitted a Fellow of the Royal Society, who had a great Engineering reputation and was at this time Chief Engineer in the Government Dockyard) and Messrs. Mirza Ali Mahomed Shoostry, Hajee Hasham Ishphanee and Mahomed Jaffer, who were leading Mogul Mahomedan merchants of the day.

The meeting was adjourned to the 15th January, 1844. It will be noticed that only six office-bearers were appointed, namely, the two Wardens, two Deacons, Secretary and Treasurer. No appointments were made of an Inner Guard or Tyler or to any other office.

The historian of the Craft, Brother Dr. George Oliver, gave a short account of the inception of the lodge in his *Freemason's Quarterly Review* of 1844, at pages 108-9 which began thus: “Bombay—The spell is broken. The “Masonic sleepers are entranced, energy again prevails, “and the Rising Star of Western India promises light “and lustre to all within its circle embracing within its “ample folds the citizen of the world and the native “gentleman born under the Orient Sun,” and it ended with a pregnant sentence full of deep sympathy and en-

couragement.—“May the foundation stone prove the “superstructure of a building that shall endure for all ages.”

This last sentence afforded to an equally noble minded brother the theme for a letter which he addressed then to the Editor of the *Masonic Quarterly Review* under the *nom-de-plume* of Frater, and was published at pages 365-67 of the *Review*, for 1844, and will appear *in extenso* a little later.

During the year 1844, six regular meetings and two special meetings of the lodge (of which one was the first anniversary meeting) were held, and at all of them with the exception of one meeting the Right Worshipful Master presided. All the meetings were convened by circulars which are set out in the minute book and were held in the “Lodge House” behind the Police Office in Mazagon, and the number of members who attended them was between twelve and twenty and at every meeting there were some visiting brethren. The degree work during the year consisted of eight initiations, five passings and three raisings.

The first regular meeting was held on the 22nd (and not 15th) January 1844, owing to the lodge rooms not being ready, and at that meeting after a “prayer and an address” from the Right Worshipful Master and confirmation of the proceedings of the last meeting a declaration prepared for the natives of India to be subscribed previous to their being initiated in the Craft was approved of and thereafter Brothers Mirza Ali Mahomed Shoostry and Ardeshir Cursetji Wadia subscribed to the declaration and were ballotted for, duly elected and initiated and the Senior Warden delivered an address to them after the ceremony. There is no minute made of the prayer and address of the Right Worshipful Master, but obviously they must have been said and delivered as being appropriate to the holding of the very first regu-

lar meeting of the lodge. A brother named Samuel Chetham (a member of Lodge Perseverance) was duly elected Tyler of the lodge and the lodge was adjourned to the 15th March next. The declaration as approved was in the same terms as the form annexed as Appendix A to the existing bye-laws of the lodge, except that it contained the words "the only one true and living God" instead of "the only one true God" and did not contain any statement as to the candidate's profession and residence and declarations that he had never before applied to any lodge for initiation and that he would conform to the bye-laws of this lodge, which statement and declarations are now required. It differed from the usual declaration then adopted in that it commenced with "I . . . in the fear and belief of the only one true and living God and of a state of reward and punishment after life for deeds done in the flesh and of the nature and import of a solemn obligation." The departure seems to have been devised as a check and a safeguard against the dangers of an indiscriminate admission of natives into the Order and into its secrets.

The second regular meeting was held on the appointed day, namely, 15th March, 1844. Messrs. Mahomed Jaffer and Hajee Hasham Ishphanee were initiated after they had subscribed to the declaration and had taken the necessary obligation. These two brethren must have been ballotted for and duly elected at the last meeting though the minutes thereof are silent on the point. Four candidates (all again Persian Moguls) were duly proposed for ballot at the next meeting, namely,—Syed Hady bin Syed Mahomed Tukee, Mirza Mahomed Reza, Haji Mahomed Mehdi and Mirza Ahmed.

The Right Worshipful Master announced at this meeting that he had ordered out from England a complete set of jewels and aprons for the use of the

lodge and thereupon the brethren passed a resolution thanking him for the trouble he had taken and ordering the Treasurer to pay for the whole set. A visiting brother named Brother M. O'Meally officiated as Inner Guard at this meeting. The lodge was closed and ordered to meet again on the 15th May next unless called by reasons of emergency.

The next meeting, however, was not held on the 15th May "in consequence of the excessive heat of the weather" but was held on 15th June 1844. The four candidates proposed at the last meeting were all ballotted for, severally introduced and regularly initiated, after which an address was delivered by the Right Worshipful Master followed by a suitable explanation of the working tools and tracing board by the Senior Warden, Worshipful Brother Larkworthy.

It was unusual to invest any member of the lodge who was not a Master Mason with the badge of any office, yet the Right Worshipful Master invested at this meeting Brothers Ardesbir Cursetji Wadia, Mirza Alli Mahomed Shoostry and Mahomed Jaffer though they were entered apprentices only with the jewels of the Senior Deacon, Inner Guard and Director of Ceremonies, respectively, to officiate as such in the absence of the brethren holding those offices, remarking that he had made an exception in their favour in the belief that it would emulate them to advance the cause of Freemasonry, and as a matter of fact Brother Mahomed Jaffer officiated as Inner Guard at this very meeting. By this time therefore it will be seen appointments to the necessary offices were completed.

As the bye-laws of the lodge, as resolved at the meeting of 15th December, 1843, were to be in force until 24th June, 1844, the brethren resolved at this meeting to extend them till 27th December, 1844, which was the then ensuing St. John's Day.

The fourth regular meeting took place on 15th July, 1844, and was the only meeting during the year which the Right Worshipful Master did not attend, and was presided over by Worshipful Brother Larkworthy.

Brothers Ardeshir Cursetji Wadia, Mirza Alli Mahomed Shoostry and Mahomed Jaffer were duly passed to the respectable degree of Fellow Craft Masons, and the working tools and the tracing board were then explained to the newly passed brethren by the officiating Worshipful Master. It was the practice in those days that a candidate before being advanced at a meeting had to be formally proposed at a previous meeting for being Crafted or raised, and this practice continued till the year 1891.

At the fifth regular meeting, held on 10th September, 1844, it was resolved to order out from England the whole of Brother Dr. George Oliver's works on Masonry, and two gentlemen were proposed for initiation, *viz.*, Meer Hyder, a respectable Persian merchant from Calcutta, and Nabob Akbar Alikhan. Brother Oliver's works subsequently arrived and some of them still form a part of the library of the lodge.

The last regular meeting was to have been held on 15th November, 1844, but in order to enable the brethren to meet Brother Fawcett, Junior Warden, (who was then shortly leaving for Europe and was anxious to attend the meeting to bid farewell to the brethren) it was held in deference to a request from him and Brother Le Geyt on 19th November. The lodge passed a resolution unanimously recording the regret which it felt at the departure of Brother Fawcett, and thanking him for his services as one of its office bearers; and the Right Worshipful Master conveyed the resolution to Brother Fawcett in a complimentary speech.

The first anniversary meeting of the lodge was held on 16th December, 1844, and as it turned out was as

memorable as the one held on 15th December, 1843, at which the lodge was brought into existence.

The Right Worshipful Master and Bros. Le Geyt, P. M., and Larkworthy, S. W., had so very much endeared themselves to the native brethren of the lodge (the first named for founding and conducting the lodge and the second for his efforts for the establishment of the lodge and the last named for his eloquent expositions of the ceremonies and principles of Freemasonry), that they held a meeting of their own on 12th December, 1844, under the Chairmanship of Brother Maneckji Cursetji, and unanimously resolved thereat to commemorate the foundation of the lodge by striking a medal bearing on one side the effigy of the Founder and on the other a suitable inscription indicative of the object, and to present the medal in gold to the Right Worshipful Master and in silver to Brothers Le Geyt and Larkworthy and other distinguished Masons, and appointed Brother Maneckji Cursetji to present the resolutions engrossed on vellum to Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes with a request to consent to accept the same.

The resolutions under the circumstances of the case were but quite natural for the native brethren to have passed, and indeed they could not have done better than to approach the Founder of the lodge in the manner they did. It is not possible to cut out any portions from the resolutions, and to attempt to do so would be to withhold from it the expression so eloquent and grateful which the native brethren thereby gave to their sincere and cordial feelings which when read cannot fail to inspire any reader with true Masonic feelings and the deepest reverence for the Craft and its supporters. The resolution, therefore, will be found set out in extenso a little later as part of the proceedings of the anniversary meeting of 16th December, 1844, together with the very splendid address which

Brother Maneckji Cursetji delivered after reading the resolutions to the European brethren of the lodge. That address consists of two sentences but of forty-seven lines as written in the minute book of the lodge and reveals in unmistakable terms the genuine character and the conviction of an universal brotherhood.

The Right Worshipful Master was at the anniversary meeting solicited by the native brethren to continue in office for the ensuing year, and their proposal having been supported by the other brethren and carried by acclamation the Right Worshipful Master accepted the office but on condition (which the brethren accepted) that Brother Larkworthy should be appointed Substitute Master with full authority to rule the lodge in his absence, or even in his presence should he deem it advisable, and Brother Larkworthy accepted the office.

The Right Worshipful Master, Substitute Master and Treasurer were then duly elected by ballot and the Right Worshipful Master nominated his office-bearers for the ensuing year amongst whom was Brother Maneckji Cursetji again appointed as Secretary to be invested on St. John's Day, 27th December, 1844.

The following nine European brethren were then affiliated to the lodge and as a special case (the meeting being the first anniversary meeting) they were all unanimously admitted as Original Members of the lodge without payment of the joining fee, *viz* :—

Brother	W. Crawford	Brother	J. Bird
"	W. Ward	"	G. Jenkins
"	C. F. Stewart	"	D. Graham
"	W. Pole	"	H. B. Lynch
"	E. Downes		

and out of them Brother Pole was appointed Senior Deacon and Brother Lynch was appointed Interpreter and Director of Ceremonies.

Brothers Syed Tukee and Reza were duly passed, and a very pleasing and important function then took place. Brother Maneckji Cursetji stepped forward and addressed the Right Worshipful Master in nearly these words:—

Right Worshipful and Esteemed Brother—

“At a meeting of the native members of the Lodge ‘Rising Star of Western India’ held on the 12th instant, it was unanimously resolved to commemorate its foundation and at the same time to mark their sense of gratitude to you, Right Worshipful, as its Founder, by striking a medal bearing on one side your effigy and on the other a suitable inscription indicative of the object, and that I have been commissioned to read the said resolutions to you, which I beg to be permitted to do in the presence of this assembly.

“I need scarcely assure you, Right Worshipful, that however gratifying to my feelings the performance of the task thus entrusted to me, I fear my inability to do full justice to the very earnest feelings of respect, friendship and regard, which I am requested to represent to your Worship, and in which I do most cordially participate.

“That your Worship’s attachment to the cause of Freemasonry, your zeal for the advancement of its prosperity, and the very many most valuable services which you have rendered to the Craft are too well known to need recapitulation, whilst your worth and merits have been appreciated and acknowledged by various bodies of the fraternity in India and Europe, but that this additional act of yours, in throwing boldly and undisguisedly open the portals of Freemasonry to the natives of India, and which it is the object of these resolutions to commemorate, will, to use the Oriental expression, render your name resplendent throughout the East, and ever endear you to your native brethren.

"To these observations I need add nothing further than the devoutest prayer of your native brethren for your health and prosperity, and their request that you will kindly give your sanction to the resolutions which I would now read, and in which the native brethren hope they will be supported by the European members of the lodge."

The resolution then read by Brother Maneckji Cursetji was as follows:—

"At a meeting of the native members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, held at the residence of Brother Aga Mahomed Jaffer, on the 12th instant, the following resolutions were duly and unanimously passed.

*Firstly.*—That the 15th instant being the anniversary of the establishment of our lodge, under Warrant from our Right Worshipful Brother James Burnes, K. H., F. R. S., etc., Provincial Grand Master of Western India, the occasion seems appropriate for our marking in some especial manner our gratitude for his having thrown open the Craft to us, and for commemorating the foundation of Lodge Rising Star of Western India.

*Secondly.*—That this shall be done by striking a medal bearing on one side the effigy of our said beloved Brother, the Provincial Grand Master, the Founder of our lodge, and on the other a suitable inscription commemorative of its erection expressly for the reception of native gentlemen.

*Thirdly.*—That one of the medals be in gold, and be presented to our said Brother, the Provincial Grand Master, with a suitable inscription round its edge, and that he be solicited to wear it on all occasions of Masonic ceremony, as a token of the love, respect and gratitude entertained towards him by his native brethren of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India.

*Fourthly.*—That the rest of the medals be in silver, and with the permission of the lodge and, under the

sanction of the Provincial Grand Master, be established henceforth as the badge of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, to be worn by every member thereof, pendant to an orange-watered ribbon, and that for this purpose the lodge be requested to accept from us the dyes.

*"Fifthly.*—That of the said medals in silver one be presented to our Right Worshipful and dear Brother Le Geyt, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and our Past Master, and one to our Worshipful and esteemed Brother Larkworthy, our Senior Warden, to the former in token of our appreciation of his efforts for the establishment of our lodge, and to the latter in token of the eloquent expositions of the principles and ceremonies of Freemasonry which he, at various times, has favoured us with.

*"Sixthly.*—That steps, likewise, be taken to transmit the said medals respectively to the Most Worshipful the Grand Masters of England, Scotland, and Ireland, the Duke de Caze, Most Venerable of the Grand Orient of France, their Royal Highnesses the Grand Masters of the Order in Holland and Prussia, the Right Worshipful Brother J. Grant, Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, and to the Most Noble the Provincial Grand Master of Madras and the three Princes of the Blood Royal of Persia, who are Freemasons, and to such other exalted brethren as the lodge may hereafter specify.

*"Seventhly.*—That Brothers Maneckji Cursetji Mohamed Jaffer, Ardeshir Cursetji, and Alli Mahomed, Esquires, do form themselves into a committee for the purpose of giving effect to the object we have in view, in a manner creditable to us and agreeable to the Provincial Grand Master.

*"Eighthly.*—That these resolutions be fairly engrossed on vellum both in the English and Persian languages and be presented to our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand

Master, at the meeting of our lodge on the 16th instant, with a solicitation that he will oblige us by consenting and giving effect to the same.

MANECKJI CURSETJI,

*Chairman of the said Meeting.*"

The Right Worshipful brother then addressed the native brethren in Persian and afterwards addressed the other brethren as follows:—

"My Brethren,—I have just endeavoured to explain to our native brethren in the Persian language that I must indeed be wanting in feelings which should characterise a man and a Mason, if I did not deeply value the friendship and brotherly love which have induced them to identify me with the measure now proposed, but that highly as I appreciate the distinction to myself conveyed in it, which is indeed most flattering and grateful, yet the proposal comes recommended to me on grounds altogether apart from personal feelings and finds a cordial and unqualified welcome to my heart, chiefly from its exhibiting on their part so becoming a reverence and homage to our Masonic Craft, and thus I have observed, instead of being a restricted compliment to an individual, already far over-rewarded for any services he may have performed, it assumes an extended form and object, which while they confer on those from whom it emanates infinite credit and honour, clothe it with a value which will render it precious and acceptable to the Masonic brethren of every tongue and nation throughout the earth ; since it goes forth to the world as a noble proof that the élite and selected of the native gentlemen of Bombay, having been admitted into our Brotherhood and understood its tenets and purposes, have marked their gratitude and exultation by a testimonial altogether unprecedented in the East, but which, after exciting a widely spread and intense interest in our own day and generation, will survive and endure

as a lasting token of their Masonic zeal and, fidelity to mankind hereafter, especially endearing them to those who shall succeed to our emblems and symbols long after we shall have been initiated, passed, raised, and it is to be hoped exalted on another lodge. Under this view of the subject I have added that it does not become me to interpose personal scruples or delicacy to the execution of a measure and duty highly complimentary certainly to myself, but which may materially advance the interest of Masonry in India, and which, while it confers a high distinction on the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, will ever reflect lustre and honour on the nine first native members received into it.”

No finer or more eloquent tribute than this speech could have been paid to the labours of the worthy Founder of the lodge, and no more touching proof of the love and regard he had inspired could have been given than the depth and sincerity of gratitude which found such genuine and spontaneous expression.

The following resolution was then proposed by Brother Blowers, seconded by Brother Compton, and carried unanimously:—

“That the lodge do cordially hail the resolutions submitted by Brother Maneckji Cursetji and the other native brethren; receive with gratitude the medal dyes, and, with the sanction of the Provincial Grand Master, do establish the medal as the badge in manner proposed by the native brethren.

“That a committee to be nominated by the Right Worshipful Master be appointed to co-operate with the committee of the native brethren, to assist them by every means in their power in the object they have in view.”

This resolution shows how whole-hearted and sympathetic was the union between the European and Native members of the lodge.





Burne's Medal—Obverse



Burne's Medal—Reverse

In pursuance of it Brothers Blowers, Barr, Compton, and Dr. Buist were appointed by the lodge to join with the native committee.

It was under these circumstances that a medal was decided upon as a badge of the lodge. It has since been called "The Burnes Medal" or the "Founder's Medal" or the "Fundator's Medal." It was struck in due course and duly arrived from London where it was executed in the year 1846 by the famous artist R. Wyon, and was worn by the members of the lodge for the first time at the lodge meeting of 15th June, 1846. On the obverse side it bears a bust effigy of Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes surrounded by the inscription "*Frat Insigne dilect Jacobus Burnes fundator*" meaning "James Burnes, Founder, distinguished and beloved brother." On the reverse are the full size effigies of Brothers Maneckji Cursetji and Mahomed Jaffer each clothed in the full dress of his community and with an apron and a ribbon of the Order and wearing the jewel of his office and bearing a banner in his hand and both standing near a pedestal on which are placed two volumes of the Sacred Law and a jewel, and at foot and in front of which are the working tools and behind which is a palm tree. On the pedestal the following inscription of five words in five lines also appears:

" LODGE RISING STAR AT BOMBAY "

In the rim on the reverse of the medal is the inscription:

" Founded for the reception of native gentlemen December 15th, 1843."

The size of the medal is 45 mm. and its weight 37 grammes.

The last thing that the memorable meeting of 16th December, 1844, did was to pass a resolution: "That the medal be presented to the venerable father of the Right Worshipful Master Dr. Burnes at Montrose."

The last meeting of the year was held on St. John's Day, 27th December, 1844, and Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes was duly reinstalled as Master, and he invested his 11 office-bearers, *viz.*, substitute master, past master, wardens, deacons, treasurer, secretary, interpreter and director of ceremonies, and guards with the respective jewels of their offices. This was the largest attended meeting of the lodge of the whole year, and amongst the visiting brethren were two distinguished personages, *viz.*, the Marquis de Ferriere La Voyer and Lord Viscount Sandall (or as his name is given in the minute book Lord Viscount Suirdale) and they were unanimously elected honorary members, and then the lodge was closed and the brethren went from labour to refreshment. The Marquis was in Bombay on his way to France after having creditably held the high office of Principal Secretary to the Embassy from the King of France to the Emperor of China, and had been that very night initiated into the order of Freemasonry in an English lodge through the courtesy of Dr Burnes. Lord Sandall was the grandson of the then late Right Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland and was a very zealous Mason.

Certain proceedings recorded in the minute book, as supplementary proceedings of 27th December, 1844, show that the lodge was then held in its very infancy in very high esteem by the lodges in the sister presidencies and also in England and Scotland, and also bring back to memory the noble sentiments and cordial wishes of the French nobleman which hitherto have remained hidden in the records of the lodge.

At the banqueting board a European visiting brother proposed that the speech delivered that evening by the distinguished French Marquis be translated from French into English by Brother Maneckji Cursetji and recorded in the records of the lodge, and the Right Worshipful Master accordingly directed that the toast

and the speeches which it elicited in reply, in relation to the lodge, be recorded which was done as follows :—

The next toast which the Right Worshipful proposed was one, he said, of peculiar interest, it was "Prosperity to the Rising Star of Western India," a lodge erected under peculiar circumstances, and of which the first anniversary was celebrated lately. Its working had given him, and all interested in its welfare, entire satisfaction, which must be attributed to the zealous exertions of its officers, both European and Native.

Brother Compton returned thanks, in the absence of the Substitute Master, Brother Larkworthy, in the name of the European officers of the Star.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji, in doing the same on the part of the Native officers, said : "The native brethren are not insensible of the kindness which prompted the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master never to omit opportunities, whenever he had any, of taking such favourable notice as he had that evening done of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, a lodge expressly erected, and for the first time in India, for the admission of native gentlemen of acknowledged integrity. That it has already been a source of self-gratulation to the native brethren to find that this, their infant lodge, has been kindly and favourably noticed, not only in the sister presidencies, but even in several of the Provincial Lodge meetings in England and Scotland; that from the circumstance of the presence of their foreign visitor, Brother the Marquis De Ferriere, at the meeting of the Star, and from what has been witnessed by him, that it was not improbable it would attract like notice at the capital, and in the provinces of France. Brother Maneckji Cursetji would avail himself of the opportunity to say how much he is personally indebted to the spirit of Freemasonry in France. Between some of the lodges there and the Rising Star of Western India there exists a

relationship, for the first native member of the latter was initiated into one of the former, "*A la Gloire de l' Universe*" under the warrant of dispensation from the Most Venerable of the "Grand Orient," his respected and distinguished friend the Duke of Cazé. That there was some difficulty as to the admission of natives into our Order before, but that difficulty was surmounted to a great extent by his (Brother Maneckji Cursetji's) initiation at Paris, and it therefore gave him no small satisfaction to have been in some degree instrumental in introducing our newly elected Brother, the Marquis de Ferriere, into our Order that night and who so justly deserved the warmth of our greetings."

The Marquis de Ferriere La Voyer again rose to assure the meeting that he was touched with all he heard so flattering for himself and his country, and if anything could add to the emotions excited within him by the discourse to which he so badly replied, it would be without doubt the words which their Parsee brother, (Maneckji Cursetji) had so eloquently pronounced. It was indeed to him (the Marquis) agreeable thus far from France, and on a soil where the tri-coloured flag wafts but seldom, to receive testimony of such cordial sympathy on the part of a member of that nation of illustrious exiles, which France only knows by name. If he, the Marquis, was not mistaken, a Parsee, even who had just addressed him in such a kind manner, went, without being stopped by the obstacles which his religion opposes to distant journey, even to France, where he worthily represented his countrymen. It was even in France, under the auspices of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, that he, the son of India, and the first Parsee Mason was invested with the insignia of our most holy Brotherhood in the same manner as he, a child of France, has been received as an apprentice in a lodge of Bombay, by the especial favour of its learned

and honoured Provincial Grand Master. That they see at that moment a double example of the valuable effects of Masonry, the admingling together of members from the most distant parts of the world. He (the Marquis) said he was going to propose not a toast, but a wish that they might see more frequently in Paris and in London the Parsees of the East. Our esteemed brother had given the first example, may that example be followed, and his compatriots bring back, as he has done, such good recollections of, and such extensive sentiment in favour of, the civilization of the inhabitants of Europe. As to the other part of his double toast, the Marquis added that he was there, a Frenchman, his first step in Masonry was taken into an English lodge. Might he, therefore, be permitted to consider this fact as a symbol of the union of two empires which held in their hands the peace of the world, this holy and distinguished object of Freemasonry. He, therefore, most cordially proposed repeated voyages of the Parsees to France and to England, and the frequent appearance of the flag which protects the men and the manufactures of France in the ports of India. The Marquis sat down amidst great applause.

Thus closed the first and very eventful year of the existence of the lodge with fifty members on its roll, of whom two noblemen were honorary members, one a French Viscount and the other an Irish Peer. No statement of the funds or the accounts is given in the minutes of this year, but from the minutes of the year 1851, which will be referred to in connection with the events of that year, it appears that the total receipts were Rs. 1,956, and that the total expenditure was Rs. 1,749-13-8, leaving a balance of Rs. 206-2-4 to the credit of the lodge.

By the end of the year the lodge also got its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It bears No. 403 and is dated "Edinburgh, 2nd December, 1844,"

and was ordained to be issued by the Grand Lodge assembled in the Freemason's Hall at Edinburgh upon a petition presented to it on the same day in the name of Brothers Le Geyt, Danvers and others who had signed the original requisition to the Provincial Grand Master with the necessary certificates and was signed by the Right Hon. George Lord Glenlyon, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and the Substitute Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens and the Grand Secretary and Grand Clerk. This Charter is kept in the custody of the Master and Wardens for the time being of the lodge and exhibited at every lodge meeting, so that the same may be better known and more easily observed by all brethren. It authorises the lodge to enter apprentices, pass fellow crafts and raise master masons upon payment of compositions at their initiation of not less than one guinea, and *inter alia* enjoins all brethren not to desert the lodge on any account nor upon any pretext whatever to make any separate or schismatical meetings independent of the Master and Wardens for the time being, nor to introduce any other orders of Masonry than those sanctioned, and requires them to be bound at all times in full allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and to obey all its acts, statutes and regulations, and to record it (the Charter) and the minutes of their whole procedure from time to time in the books of the lodge; and to attend the Grand Lodge whole general meeting or quarterly communications by the Master and Wardens for the time being as their representatives or by lawful proxies in their names. The Charter was appointed to be recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge, and gives the lodge precedence in the Grand Lodge as from the date thereof. (See Appendix A.)

From the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* (September Number) it appears that on 24th June, 1844, the Masonic

fraternity celebrated the anniversary of their patron saint, St. John the Baptist, and that on that occasion when the brethren retired from labour to refreshment, the eight native members of Lodge Rising Star, including Brother Maneckji Cursetji, formed part of the company. This was then a novel event in the annals of Freemasonry in Western India and attracted much public attention. The *Bombay Courier*, the daily English newspaper of the day, in its issue of 28th June, gave a short account of the meeting, and therein animadverted favourably on the beauties of the Mystic Order which, it said, brought together into one harmonious whole the disciple of Zoroaster, the follower of the Prophet, and the Christian as children of the same Father, though following different religions and speaking different languages. The *Bombay Chabook*, a daily vernacular newspaper, wrote an article upon this, in which it gave a distorted version of the account as appearing in the *Courier*, and took the latter paper severely to task, and it went so far as to say that the Parsees, who had become Freemasons and had taken baptismal water and become Christians, were alike in its opinion no Parsees, because it was nowhere written and nowhere enjoined in or by the Parsee religion for the Parsees to join any assembly celebrating a Christian festival or to join with them in taking their meals, and that the ceremony of the festival was on account of St. John, nothing but St John's festival, and that those who could worship St. John must once and a hundred and thousand times over and over be considered as having separated themselves from the Parsee tribe. Then after saying that unless Parsees were prevented from joining Freemasonry the Parsee religion would be in five or seven years more and more enfeebled and that of Christ abundantly spread in its stead, the *Bombay Chabook* said : " Had any poor Parsee, even mistakingly, committed such an act, our brother, the *Jam-e-Jamshed*, would have girded his loins.

with all the twelve weapons, flashed like lightning, growled like thunder and deluged him with rain, but different has been the case. Here, sons of Setts are eating dirt by way of amusement, and our brother the *Jam-e-Jamshed* being one of the elected buffoons of their table, he has hidden himself in the clouds like the moon in the monsoon."

The reference to the sons of Setts was clearly a hit at Brothers Maneckji Cursetji and Ardeshir Cursetji Wadia who had broken through the trammels of bigotry and joined the noble Order.

The whole article was full of unjust prejudice which in those days filled the native mind against Freemasonry.

The *Courier* vindicated itself by exposing the distorted version. The whole controversy, however, was very interesting and may be usefully read as contained in the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* of 1844, pp. 361 to 364.

It is also recorded in the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* of 1844, pp. 497 to 498, that on 30th July, 1844, Lodge St. Andrews in the East of Poona gave a grand Masonic entertainment to Dr. Burnes, and presented to him a Knight's Cross of the Guelphic Order handsomely set and enriched with brilliants as an appropriate badge or jewel to commemorate his visit to Poona and consecration of that lodge a few months before. At that entertainment Dr. Burnes proposed "The Masonic Lodges of Western India," and in doing so entered particularly into the reasons which had induced him to sanction the then recent establishment of the Rising Star for the admission of native gentlemen into the Craft. Lodge St. Andrews in the East, Poona, comes next after Rising Star and bears No. 343 S. C.

The letter already referred to of "Frater" to the editor of the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* was as follows:—

"To the Editor of the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*.

Sir,—“May this foundation-stone prove the superstructure of a building that shall endure for all ages”

such is the concluding remark of a brief sketch you have given of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India in No. 5 of your *Review*, dated March 31st, 1844 ; and in it you are most cordially joined by the whole fraternity of that distant province, and no doubt by all the brethren scattered throughout the globe. Personally I have not the honour of your acquaintance, of your predecessor I had ; him I knew to be zealous, and have no reason to doubt but that you are the same. Consequently, I suspect it will give you as well as no few of your readers pleasure to hear a little of the progress of Rising Star, and being myself fond of Masonic chit-chat, I will, if you will allow me, tell you what we have been doing and how we have been doing it.

You are perhaps aware that the Island of Bombay can boast of a greater number of languages, religions, and nations amongst its inhabitants than almost any other place in the known world ; for, besides considerable numbers of every Christian sect, it contains indefinite numbers of Mussalmans, Hindoos and Parsees, neither are Jews, Chinese and more or less of every neighbouring nation wanting, including in its 300,000 souls some of almost every European as well as Asiatic country, America being not altogether unrepresented. Be it remembered, too, that the vernacular language of each of the parties is still in use at Bombay, although, to some little extent, English is known to most. The Romanist still uses the Portuguese ; the Mussalman Arabic, Persian or Hindustani, according to the country from whence he is derived ; the Parsee clings with cherished fondness to his adopted language, Guzarati, whilst the Hindoo of Bombay is colloquial in his native Maharati.

But to a person unaccustomed to India, what idea can be given of the prejudices of caste, or of the impassable barrier it opposes, not only between the various nations, but the different families of the same nation. Amongst

all of them certain foods are religiously forbidden, and no two of them will together participate of the same meal, the Christian alone being above the prejudice, and freely using all God's creatures ; each sect looking upon another with no little jealousy and some dread ; the Hindoo and Parsee still recollecting the horror and persecution of the Mahomedan invasions, and all feeling the present supremacy of the British power. With people then of these different habits and feelings is the great society of Bombay composed ; but it will not be necessary for me further to particularize their peculiarities, as I tell you why, and on what principle, the native lodge has been founded. You will recollect that, about the beginning of the year 1843, the foundation-stone of the Jamsetji Jijibhai Hospital was laid in Bombay, with Masonic honours, in the presence of the Founder and the Honourable the Governor, and nothing of the sort having been witnessed there before that impressive ceremony, which was beautifully performed by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Western India, and a large assemblage of brethren, it made a considerable impression upon the wondering natives, and nothing more so than by observing the high and wealthy of the presidency in such close communion with their more humble brethren ; and constant and earnest were the after-enquiries respecting the mystic tie that could bind them so intimately together. To the inquiring mind the Craft have ever been ready and willing to explain to the uninitiated the grand principles upon which our Order is founded, nor were the Bombay brethren to be the first exception, and the result was that many became eager for the privilege of wearing the badge of innocence, and to be received into the fraternity, some of whom were men of well-known talent, enterprise and honour.

This feeling being observed and examined, some of the leading brethren in Bombay, after mature consider-

ation, determined to gratify their laudable inclinations ; but now appeared the difficulty for, on more than one occasion, the only lodge in work in Bombay had negatived the admission of any native, even as a joining member ; therefore there could be no hope in that quarter, the opinion of the lodge having been so decidedly given. But however we may admire the sincerity of its members, we may certainly doubt their judgment in the decision come to, and hope that, by the future culture of Masonic principle and observation of the fruit produced by the Rising Star, the opinion acted upon may be proved to be erroneous.

The only plan that could be adopted was to found a new lodge for the purpose of the admission of native gentlemen, which was accordingly done in the manner you have described in your former number, doubly guarding each of the grand landmarks of our Order, every responsible office being filled by tried men and true, till others shall be found to be worthy. One thing, however, admits but of little doubt, that Rising Star will, before many years shall have passed away, have gained such altitude in the heavenly science, that it will shed a brilliancy over the whole of Western India, returning in tenfold degree the light it is now borrowing from the European Brotherhood ; for lodges in India generally have not been able long to sustain a character they have, for the most part, ephemerally or accidentally acquired. For in India most men are but mere birds of passage, here to-day and gone to-morrow, and although a lodge may have been ably and zealously presided over for a time, the Master, even before his term has expired, has perhaps been ordered off to a distant station, where he may possibly be the only brother. On the contrary the greater number of the brethren belonging to a lodge in England are permanent residents, who can not only fill the various junior offices in the lodge, but after they

have received command, can remain to teach the principles and doctrines they have learned, and ever afterwards to watch over the well-being of the Craft in their immediate neighbourhoods. In this way, too, may we hope to see the Lodge Rising Star in after years. The majority of its members being residents it will remain as a depository for the Masonic lore of Western India, and by the correctness of its ceremonial and accuracy of its working, become a means of permanent instruction that has been but too seldom available in this distant land.

Our ancient charges having particularly guarded us against admitting anyone to a participation of our secrets, who, we have not good ground for believing, will ultimately reflect honour on the Craft, would of course induce an attentive listening to all the dangers and inconveniences attending the admission of the native of India into our lodges, that were made by some anxious and zealous brethren, and every precaution that foresight and knowledge could take have been adopted to sustain the purity of the sanctuary, and consequently two or three deviations from the usual customs have been adopted; for instance, the declaration commences 'I—in the fear and belief of the only one true and living God, of a state of reward and punishment after life, for deeds done in the flesh, and of the nature and import of a solemn obligation.' Then follows the usual one, p. 85, para. 3 of the Constitutions, which is not only signed in English, but the vernacular of the candidate, after a *viva voce* examination by a brother in whom confidence can be placed. Again, an examination is entered into regarding the nature and import of the serious promise before it is made a solemn obligation, so that no part of it may be by any possibility misunderstood, or rashly entered into, but impressed with all the solemnity that part of the ceremony is so peculiarly capable of receiving. But the great

point, the obligation, how is that administered? In every respect in the usual way; but again with an addition, for each is re-obligated on what he considers as most binding on his conscience. For instance, the Mahomedan, although he believes in the Old Testament, does not believe in the divinity of Christ; therefore, any obligation taken by him on the Gospels would not be binding on his conscience, as is the case with an obligation taken on the Koran; therefore, he is re-obligated upon that book, in the same way as the Jew is re-obligated on the Pentateuch. As Masons, the Bible is ever open before us, it is our great light—the light of the Law and the Prophets; but as Christians we have also the light of revelation attached to it, to guide us in our pilgrimage of life, and which is necessary for the obligation of a Christian Mason, as no other would be binding on a Christian's conscience, but which would not be so either on the Mussalman or the Hebrew, the one in his faith stopping short, and the other going beyond it. These deviations, or rather additions, were considered necessary and proper, and to afford a sufficient additional safeguard for the keeping inviolate our sacred mysteries, and were determined on by those who have taken the responsibility of the native lodge upon their shoulders, and who will not leave their brethren with a bare initiation into the ceremonial mysteries of our Order, but who can and will carefully instruct them in the principles and in the working out of the grand end and aim of the institution, to show them that there is at least one place here on earth where men of every denomination may meet on terms of brotherhood and equality, whatever may be his colour, or whatever may be his creed, so long as he believes in the one true and living God, looks forward hereafter for reward or punishment for deeds done in the flesh, and lives an honest and upright life before his God, and with his neighbour; and to prove to them, that although

their different prejudices will not allow them to eat together, they may advantageously join together in the performance of good works, and in the cultivation of every virtue, that brotherly love may be encouraged, relief practised, and truth be triumphant ; that they may be taught to despise the littleness of sectarian prejudices and to view in every son of Adam a brother of the dust.

At the first regular meeting of the lodge two initiations took place : one a Parsee, the other a Mahomedan, both of them of the most respectable of their own people, the former a particularly intelligent and clever man, a F. R. S., and possessing considerable scientific acquirements, but unfortunately those who are nearest and dearest to him are not quite so enlightened as himself, and cannot be brought to look with complacency on the step he has taken, and consequently he has been subjected to considerable annoyance, so much so that others have shrunk from encountering it. But this is nothing more than Freemasonry has been accustomed to in all ages from the powerful ignorant and the bigot, and what is not even discontinued by the enlightened (!) European in our own day, as so recently exhibited to the world at large in the Malta Pastoral ; therefore, it is not to be expected that its course could be more smooth and even among a new people, with manners and habits so different from European nations. Nor are we astonished or surprised at finding some of the old but most influential native gentlemen putting, as far as they can do so, a direct veto on those over whom they have influence from entering into the Order, whilst the only reason assigned is that it will bring them into too near a contact with Europeans, and that they may be led to eat and drink with them; and most Indian families being still conducted on the patriarchal principle, and all branches of it generally residing under one roof, this check has had some influence, especially amongst the Parsees. Still, however, there

have been already eight initiations of native gentlemen into our Order, and others have gone through preliminaries that will enable them to be introduced at subsequent meetings,<sup>3</sup> and their conduct and example will no doubt ultimately soften down, if not entirely do away with, existing prejudices which a want of knowledge alone has given birth to, for the bright light of truth must one day clear away the dark and dismal clouds of calumny, superstition and ignorance.

Nevertheless, the Bombay brethren do not look forward to, or wish for, either a great influx of members, or a rapid advancement of them through the different degrees; on the contrary, they are most careful and cautious in their selections. It is not to all who knock that the door is opened; but most anxious are they that no objectionable person should gain admittance. The fee is high, and the scrutiny severe, whilst the examination before advancement is critical and searching, and a good, practical knowledge of one degree is required before a second step is given, the bye-laws requiring a much longer period to elapse than stated by the Constitutions.

One point more, and I have done for the present. The Lodge Rising Star ranks under the banners of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in common with all the lodges at present working in Western India. Unnatural mothers will ever produce undutiful children; the Grand Lodge of England having proved herself an inattentive and disobliging guardian, a foster-mother has been found, who will watch more carefully over her adopted children. To the citizen of the world it little signifies under what banner he ranges himself, provided it be a truly Masonic one; and whether the Rose, the Shamrock, or the Thistle be emblazoned upon it, he can still work on with that love and harmony that should ever characterise free and accepted Masons. But with age parents become feeble and

often disabled. It, therefore, behoves them to cherish their offspring so that in the evening of weakness and in trouble, youthful and willing Lewises may be found to lend their strength and support when needed. 'But children cannot always endure neglect, even from their parent much may be borne ; but there is a point at which even filial love will cease.

*Bombay, June 19, 1844.*

FRATER.

Brother A. C. Wadia and Mirza Ali Mahomed Shoosty were the first two members initiated into the lodge, and they are the Parsee and Mahomedan initiates referred to in para. 7 of this admirable letter.

### CHAPTER III.

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DURING the second year (1845) the Lodge maintained its progress. Twelve new members were enrolled, two of whom were initiates, three joining members and seven honorary members. There were eight meetings held, of which six were regular and one was special, and one the anniversary meeting, and there were two initiations and two raisings which was much less degree work than that done during the first year.

A very important resolution was passed in the commencement of the year, the effect of which was that the lodge became practically allied to, if not amalgamated with, Lodge Perseverance. It emanated from the same sympathetic brother who was the founder of the lodge and was supported by Brothers Larkworthy and Maneckji Cursetji, and was proposed at the meeting held on 15th February, 1845 and passed *nem con* at the next meeting held on 15th March in the following terms:—

“That the actual members of the Lodge Perseverance be considered extra members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, be warned of its meetings, and be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary members excepting that of speaking or voting on questions before the lodge.”

Lodge Perseverance had also, it appears, passed at its meeting held on 3rd March, 1845 a similar resolution according a similar privilege to members of this lodge which, by the resolution above quoted, was granted to the members of that lodge, and a copy of that resolution was communicated to Brother Maneckji Cursetji by the

Secretary of that lodge with the following covering letter:—

*Bombay, 15th March 1845. c*

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have been requested by the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance to forward to you, for the information of the Right Worshipful Master, officers and brethren of the Lodge Rising Star, the annexed copy of a resolution which was unanimously passed by the brethren at the last lodge meeting of Perseverance of the 3rd instant, and at the same time to state that it will afford the members of that lodge the highest gratification to welcome amongst them the native brethren of the Lodge Rising Star in the prosperity of which Perseverance cannot but feel a deep interest.

Yours fraternally,

A. HUGH THOMAS,

*Secy., Lodge Perseverance.*

To

BRO. MANECKJI CURSETJI,

SECY. TO LODGE RISING STAR

OF WESTERN INDIA.

Resolution unanimously passed by the brethren of the Lodge Perseverance, at its meeting on the 3rd March, 1845.

“That the actual members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India be considered extra members of Lodge Perseverance, be warned of its meetings, and be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary members excepting that of speaking and voting on questions before the lodge.”

The following reply was sent to this letter:—

*Bombay, 15th March, 1845.*

To

BRO. HUGH THOMAS,

SECY., LODGE PERSEVERANCE.

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant

enclosing for the information of the Right Worshipful Master, officers, and members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India a copy of the resolution passed by our sister, Lodge Perseverance, to the effect that "the actual members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India be considered extra members of Perseverance, be warned of its meetings, and be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary members, excepting that of speaking and voting on questions before the lodge."

Through some mistake your kind communication under reply did not reach me till after our meeting of the 15th instant, but it is now in the course of circulation for the information of the actual members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India.

It affords me sincere gratification in the meantime to acquaint you for the information of the Worshipful Master, officers and members of the Lodge Perseverance that a resolution similar in every respect to the one you enclosed me has been unanimously passed at a meeting of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, on the 15th instant, according the same privilege to the members of the Perseverance in our lodge which they have so kindly accorded us into theirs, the object being reciprocally to advance the interest of Freemasonry.

I have, by the command of our Right Worshipful, to add, that the members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India will always with delight welcome the members of the Lodge Perseverance at our lodge meetings of which you shall be regularly kept acquainted for their information, and am, Dear Sir and Brother Secretary,

Yours fraternally,  
MANECKJI CURSETJI,

*Secy., Rising Star of Western India.*

The letter of the Secretary of Lodge Perseverance refers only to the native brethren of this lodge but that

must have been for the simple reason that they were the only brethren to be admitted as extra members as the European brethren were the actual members of that body.

After the passing of the resolution by the lodge, the members of Lodge Perseverance attended its meetings as extra members and some of them at times even officiated as office-bearers.

The two new members initiated were Brothers Mirza Ali Akbar, Khan Bahadur, and Aga Mahomed Bauker Khan. The former was the Munshi to the Government of Scinde and was on a short visit to Bombay and was desirous of being admitted into the lodge. It was, however, not possible for him to remain in Bombay for more than a fortnight, owing to the exigencies of public service, and he therefore applied to the Provincial Grand Master to grant him a special dispensation so as to allow of his being initiated at once after being brought to the ballot. His application stated as his recommendation that he was connected with the public service and had been publicly mentioned by H. E. Sir Charles Napier and H. E. the Governor-General-in-Council. Brothers Maneckji Cursetji and Mahomed Jaffer supported his application, but not until after the former had by command of the Right Worshipful Master instituted an inquiry into his character and qualifications of Right Worshipful Brothers Captains Lamart and Barr, who were supposed to know him, and had received a favourable report. The application was entertained by the Provincial Grand Master and the candidate was then brought to the ballot at the lodge meeting, which, to suit his convenience, was held on 10th May instead of 15th May, 1845. The application, the letter of inquiry and the replies thereto were read, and thereupon two visiting brethren, namely, Brothers Lieut. G. D. Byng, Aide-de-Camp to H. E. the Governor of Scinde, and Captain St. Berry of H. M.'s 87th Regiment, addressed the lodge in support of the applica-

tion of the candidate, describing him as an individual in every way worthy of admission into the order of Freemasonry. The candidate was then duly elected and initiated. Copies of this application and Brother Maneckji Cursetji's letter of inquiry and replies are set out in the minute book and show how highly the privilege of belonging to the lodge was valued by the applicant and also how, even though the lodge was only a year old and must have acquired a good number of members for being able to maintain itself, strict were the principles on which admission was granted. They are quite worth a perusal.

The three, joining members were Brothers Charles Berry, Henry Conybeare and Dr. W. S. Stuart.

The seven honorary members were Bros. Capt. Frederick W. Birch, Dr. George Oliver, C. F. Crucifix, J. Lamart, De Caravon, Lord Elphinstone, and the Very Worshipful Brother W. A. Laurie.

Brother Captain Birch was an eminent and zealous Mason and was then late Officiating Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, and according to Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes, upon whose proposal he was enrolled as an honorary member, had been watching the proceedings of the lodge with the greatest interest. In a letter written by him to Brother Secretary acknowledging the high honour done to him he wished success to the lodge which he said he regarded as a means of great good in bringing into immediate contact and mutual appreciation worthy men whom prejudice and habit had hitherto kept asunder.

Brother Lamart was the Past Master of the lodges "Orient in the East" of Poona and of "Hope" of Karachi, and was a visiting brother at the lodge meeting of 15th March, 1845. The Right Worshipful Master expressed his great gratification at his presence and requested him to officiate as Past Master which he did. It seems that a

visiting brother of high standing was in those days accorded special honour by being requested to officiate as Past Master so as to regard him as a brother the very next in rank for the time being to the presiding officer at the meeting, for at another meeting held on 15th September, 1845, Right Worshipful Brother Buchanan, W. M. of Lodge St. Andrews in the East, also a visiting brother, had the same honour; and at a meeting held on 13th February, 1846, Brother Grant, also a visiting brother who was created an honorary member, officiated as a Past Master. While returning thanks for his kind reception Brother Lamart expressed a desire to be admitted an honorary member of the lodge and the Right Worshipful Master promised to bring his solicitation to the notice of the lodge on a suitable opportunity. This however was not long in coming, for at the very next meeting held on 16th May, 1845, that brother was duly proposed, balloted for and unanimously elected as an honorary member.

It was at the same meeting that Brother Crucifix, who was the editor of the *Quarterly Review*, and Brother Dr. George Oliver, the eminent historian of the Craft, and the Very Worshipful Brother W. A. Laurie, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, of Scotland, were also unanimously elected honorary members; and it appears that Brother Crucifix was so elected in consequence of a letter written by him to the Right Worshipful Master, and an extract from which, the minutes say, was read at the meeting. That brother, in acknowledging by letter the compliment paid to him, said it was indeed an honour most gratifying, emanating from a lodge where such practical proof existed of the universally philanthropic character of our glorious institution, acknowledging no other distinctions amongst men save those devoted to virtue and integrity.

Brother De Caravon was the nephew of the Duke de Cazé the Most Venerable of the Grand Orient of France.

He was present, as a visiting Brother, at the second anniversary meeting held on 15th December, 1845, and was unanimously elected thereat an Honorary member. He was therefore the second Frenchman who became a member of the lodge.

The Right Honourable and Right Worshipful Brother Lord Elphinstone was then the Ex-Governor of Madras and Provincial Grand Master of that Presidency and was the nephew of the Governor of Bombay the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone. He was on a visit to Bombay in December 1845, and an invitation was sent to him by the lodge, but owing to the shortness of his stay he was unable to accept it and was besides prevented by other unavoidable engagements from being present at the second anniversary meeting of the lodge which he would otherwise have been most happy to have done as expressed in a note to Brother Secretary. The Right Worshipful Master suggested at that meeting that the least thing the lodge could do to mark its sense on the occasion of His Lordship being amongst them and in addition to the ground of his having held the exalted office of Grand Master among the fraternity of Madras, that of his being the nephew of the Governor of Bombay, would be to elect him an Honorary member and to present him with its medal. The following resolution was then proposed by Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes, seconded by Brother Maneckji Cursetji, and supported by the Wardens, and unanimously passed by acclamation :—

“That the lodge records its sincere regret that unavoidable circumstances as explained in his note to Brother Maneckji Cursetji have prevented the Right Worshipful Brother Lord Elphinstone from visiting us this evening. That His Lordship be elected an Honorary member of this lodge and that the compliment be accompanied by a gift of the lodge medal to His Lordship. The present resolution to be communicated to His Lordship by

Brother Maneckji Cursetji with an assurance of our friendly regard in reference to His Lordship's note of this date to him."

The resolution was in due course communicated to Brother Lord Elphinstone and he vouchsafed the following reply:—

*Parel, 17th December, 1845.*

TO MANECKJI CURSETJI ESQ.

My Dear Sir,

The resolution of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, which you have been so good as to communicate to me, does but increase the regret that I feel at not having been present at its anniversary meeting on Monday.

I shall be proud to receive at your hands my Diploma and the Medal of the Lodge which will always remind me of the great and unmerited distinction and kindness with which I have been treated by my brother Masons at Bombay, which assuredly will not be the least among the many gratifying reminiscences which I shall retain of this place.

I remain, My Dear Sir,  
Your faithful servant and Brother,  
ELPHINSTONE.

The Very Worshipful Brother W. A. Laurie was the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and was the first Brother holding that office who was brought on the rolls of the lodge.

Against the addition of twelve members the lodge sustained the loss of one by death, namely of Brother Ward, who was the brother-in-law (wife's brother) of the Right Worshipful Master Dr. Burnes.

There was always a fairly good attendance of members, extra members and visitors at all the regular meetings and besides the visiting Brethren, of whom mention has

already been made, are found the names of two Brothers, namely, Worshipful Brother Brett, who was the Worshipful Master of Lodge St. John in Sind, Hyderabad, and Worshipful Brother Musgrave, who was a Past Master of Lodge St. Andrews of London and of whom Brother Brett became a joining member from the commencement of the next year.

Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes had been requested previously by the Brethren to continue in office for another year but he was not willing to do so on personal grounds and also because his acceptance of the office would have been against the Constitutions.

Before therefore the election was proceeded with he exhorted the Brethren not to vote for him, but to elect another Brother to the office which he was to vacate, in an address which was quite characteristic of him and instructive to the Brethren and has been recorded in the minute book as follows:—

“ My Dear Brethren,

“ The revolution of another year, which I rejoice to think finds us greatly increased in numbers, and proceeding under most favourable circumstances, with the loss of only one member of our lodge by death imposes on me the necessity of relinquishing the chair, and on you the obligation of selecting a Brother to occupy it whom you conscientiously believe to be able and willing to fulfil its important duties, most important and responsible, indeed, I may call them, when the objects, peculiarities and difficulties of this lodge are considered.

“ Acting under the influence of that partiality with which the Craft here has been pleased invariably to distinguish me, some of the Brethren have requested that I should still retain the chair, but I have already occupied it for two years successively and the Constitutions are imperative that no brother shall hold the office of Master for a longer period, unless under a special dispensation

from the Grand Master or the Provincial Grand Master, declaring the case to be one of absolute necessity.

“ It is manifest, therefore, that even were it not the bounden duty of the office to which I have been elevated in the Craft to maintain strictly its rules and ordinances, I could not permit myself to be put again in nomination for the Mastership without issuing a formal declaration to glorify myself, and depreciate my Brethren, in other words to pronounce myself the only member of the lodge qualified for the chair.

“ But this is a glaring absurdity, dear Brethren, which you will not conceive me capable of contemplating, and I only make this allusion to it in order that I may follow it up with the request that no Brother will vote for me at the approaching election, since neither consistently with my feelings as a Mason, nor my ideas as a gentleman, could I again accept office.

“ The lodge contains many able and eminent Brethren, quite willing I am sure, to forego personal convenience to accept the onerous but at the same time most honorable office of Master, some of them, I hesitate not in truth to say, far better instructed Masons than I am and better able to perform the duties. Of these, one Brother has been too conspicuous not to have attracted universal observation, my selection of him to be substitute Master sufficiently indicates my personal appreciation of his merits and qualifications and his claims to the consideration of the lodge were acknowledged in a remarkable manner at our last anniversary by the vote to him of a medal which through some mismanagement has not yet reached us, but which I have reason to believe is now on its way from England.

“ Nevertheless, Brethren, the Provincial Grand Master of Western India has a little right to interfere with the freedom of election and the integrity of the ballot as the last received apprentice, and it is to your already unbiased-

ed suffrages that I leave the selection of him who is to rule over you, never doubting that you will ever keep in view the Masonic maxim that it is on real worth and personal merit only that all preferment amongst Masons is grounded.

“ I have only to add that I cannot relinquish the chair of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India without congratulating the Brethren on its steady progress, the great interest it has excited throughout the Masonic world, and the vast advantages it now promises to hold forth in the objects which the Craft has in view in a new and mighty sphere.

“ Two great causes have operated since the establishment of the lodge in producing these happy results, and on these also I sincerely congratulate you. Long may they continue to influence us, need I say that I allude to the undisturbed unanimity which has prevailed amongst the members, and to the activity and masonic propriety which has characterised the conduct of the officers. Both have been a source of sincere continued gratification to me supporting me in trying circumstances, and drawing more closely the bonds of brotherly love between us, and from my heart I thank you all and individually for the affectionate and truly masonic manner in which they have been exhibited.”

This remarkable address as truly masonic as was the reply from the same distinguished brother to the requisition for the establishment of the lodge (and for that reason never to be forgotten) seems only to have further decided the brethren in insisting upon their request but as the objection of the Right Worshipful Master could not be overcome and as there was not a large attendance of the members at the meeting it was resolved that the election of the Master should be postponed till 27th December 1845, on which day a special meeting should be called for the purpose.

The Lodge accordingly met on 27th December. The Right Worshipful Master again declined acceptance of the chair as being contrary to the Constitutions but the Brethren again urged upon him strongly to waive his objection to granting the dispensation even though it be to re-elect him to the chair for the third year, but upon the Right Worshipful Master still refusing the honour, the Brethren unanimously and by acclamation elected him Honorary Master of the lodge and then elected Brother Larkworthy as the new Master.

The receipts during the year were only 846 which with the last year's credit balance made up a total of Rs. 1,052-2-9. The disbursements amounted to Rs. 1,204-15-9 so that Rs. 152-13-0 stood to the debit.

Brothers Maneckji Cursetji and Mahomed Jaffer were, it may here be noted two out of the twenty-four promoters of a new order called "The Brotherhood of the Olive Branch in the East" which Dr. Burnes was endeavouring about the end of this year (1845) to establish in Western India with the object *inter alia* of giving a fresh impulse to truth, charity and enlightenment, by increased spread of masonic principles and practice, and to supply to natives of the East who were Masons, a substitute of the higher chivalric degrees, their exclusion from which had created heart-burning. In the Freemason's *Quarterly Review*, 1845, pp. 377-8 is given a short notice of this proposed order, which however does not seem to have been actually instituted.

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## CHAPTER IV.

1846—THE year 1846 opened with 60 members on the roll and 17 more were added by the time it closed and these 17 consisted of 13 Honorary and 4 Joining members. Against the 17 additions there was one resignation.

Worshipful Brother Larkworthy, who was the Master-elect, declined at the very first meeting held on the 17th February, to accept the office for that year begging to be allowed to adhere to a resolution made by him in that behalf, whereupon his explanation was recorded and the election of the new master was postponed to the next meeting. Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes, the Honorary Master who presided at the next meeting held on 15th June 1846, announced to the lodge thereat, that he had been promoted to the rank of Superintending Surgeon and had of necessity to quit Bombay and that was another reason of his relinquishing the chair and entreated the Brethren to proceed to elect a new Master, whereupon a ballot was taken and Brother LeGeyt was declared unanimously chosen for the office. Brother LeGeyt was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and on Dr. Burnes leaving Bombay, became the Provincial Grand Master of Western India.

The Brethren resolved at the same meeting to hold a festival or social entertainment in Dr. Burnes' honor before his departure to mark their esteem of him by a public expression of it by inviting him to it in accordance with masonic custom and he was requested to name a day convenient to him for meeting them but for want of time he was unable to accept the invitation which he

declined in a letter of which the following has been recorded as a copy:—

The Right Worshipful P. W. LEGEYT,

*Dy. Pro. Grand Master of Western India, Bombay:"*

*" Bombay 19th, August 1846.*

Right Worshipful my dear and esteemed Brother,

Deeply do I appreciate the honor which my valued Brethren contemplate for me and which you have tendered to me in such terms of marked kindness, but situated as I am, it is altogether out of my power to accept it. I am only directing the removal of my baggage to start on an urgent duty to Gujrat. I expect to quit Bombay on Saturday and there is no time thus at hand now for arranging such an entertainment as you refer to.

I ask you to express to the Brethren with my fraternal and affectionate regards my deep regret. I am forced to part from them and that before day, so I am unable even in person to say farewell to them and to thank them for all their love and brotherly kindness to me.

I ask you also to rule over them in peace and charity as my delegate and representative taking upon yourself the office of Provincial Grand Master the duties of which you are so well able to fulfil. Praying that the Grand Architect of the Universe may bless you and them.

I remain, Right Worshipful Brother,

Your affectionate friend and faithful Brother,

JAMES BURNES.

Right Worshipful Brother LeGeyt was then duly placed in the chair at the meeting following his election and as the minutes show, while the lodge was working in the 1st degree and the office-bearers of the preceding year were requested by him to continue to act until the then ensuing St. John's Day.

There was no degree work done during the year there being no initiates and there were only four meetings held during the whole year.

The four joining members were Right Worshipful Brothers Brett, Joseph Glen., W. G. Allan and Captain Forster. Brother Brett was the Worshipful Master of Lodge St. John, Sind Hyderabad and Brother Glen was the Provincial Grand Warden of Western India and Brothers Allan and Forster were members of Lodge Perseverance who were already extra-members of the lodge.

The Honorary Members were the following :—

1. Right Worshipful Brother, The Right Honorable James Andrew, Earl of Dalhousie, K.T.K.G., Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland.
2. His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas McMahon, Bart., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army.
3. Sir W. C. Harris, Past Provincial Grand Master of Western India.
4. John Grant, Provincial Grand Master of Bengal and Past Provincial Grand Master of Western India.
5. W. C. Blacquierre, Past Provincial Grand Master of Bengal and also Past Master, Lodge "Star in the East," Calcutta.
6. Lieut.-Colonel William Burlton, C. B. Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bengal.
7. Very Worshipful Brother John Cameron, Honorary Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, Western India.
8. Very Worshipful Brother Dr. M. De Kerwang (a Frenchman).
9. Very Worshipful Brother James Burnes, Past Master, "Lodge, St. Peter's Montrose," No. 154 S.C.
10. Very Worshipful Brother Adam Burnes, Past Master, "Lodge, St. Peter's Montrose" No. 154 S.C.
11. Very Worshipful Brother John Holmes of Karachi.
12. Very Worshipful Brother James Anderson of Arbroath, Scotland.

13. Very Worshipful Brother Charles S. Evans of London also a member of Lodge Perseverance.

The list of honorary members was one of exalted and distinguished as also esteemed and eminent Freemasons holding very high and responsible positions in the craft. It included an Earl a Baronet and a Knight all of England and also Brethren hailing from France and other places on the Continent and India all of whom were also presented with the founder's medal to be worn by them on all occasions of masonic ceremony.

Right Worshipful Brothers, The Earl of Dalhousie, Sir Thomas MacMahon, Grant, W. C. Blacquierre and Lt.-Colonel Burlton received the distinction on account of their exalted positions, the very Worshipful Brother Cameron in recognition of services rendered by him to the Craft of Bombay and Brothers James Burnes, Adams Burnes, Holmes and Anderson because they were relatives of the founder and evidently out of regard for that Ruler in the infant stage of the lodge. Brother Sir W. C. Harris was rewarded in appreciation of the valuable assistance he is stated to have given in superintending the execution of the founder's medal in England and Brother Evans for the trouble he took in expediting its despatch after Brother Sir Harris had quitted England. Brother Dr. Kerwang, it appears, was only a year-old Mason but he evidently received the honor because of his hailing from France.

(*Vide* appendix B, for replies received from Brothers Burlton, Kerwang, Forster, McMahon, Harris, Evans and Anderson and from Brothers Birch, Lamart and Dr. Oliver, who were made Honorary members last year).

Brother Larkworthy, who was one of the original members, resigned during the year.

The medal was struck in London under the directions of one Mr. Shephard and arrived during this year and

the lodge passed three resolutions *viz* :—(1) recording their entire approval and admiration of the medal and thanking Mr. Shephard (2) prescribing how and when it should be worn by the members of the lodge and the color of the ribbon and, (3) declaring that any brother initiated in the lodge should be invested with the medal and the ribbon at the time of his reception, its cost being included in the initiation fees.

The second resolution will be found printed at page 11 of the existing bye-laws of the lodge as a note under bye-law 21.

Amongst the visiting Brethren during the year are mentioned two names, *viz*. Brother DeLastic Bernard of Bordeaux and Brother Shelly, who was Past Master of Lodge George William at Aden.

A resolution was passed by the Provincial Grand Lodge on 24th November 1846, in the following terms:—

“That the Chapter and Rising Star ought to be allowed to have the free use of the Lodge Premises (the rent, servants’ wages and expenses of lighting up, being borne by Lodge Perseverance) and that for this accommodation one half of their receipts from whatever source should be paid to Perseverance, it being distinctly understood that the moiety so payable was to be reduced to one third should the circumstances of either render that step necessary.” This resolution was communicated to the Lodge by the Grand Secretary on the 30th November following and accepted by it and also by Lodge Perseverance. It appears to have been passed for adjusting the financial obligations of the sister lodges and Royal Arch Chapter Perseverance, which met evidently in the same rooms at Mazagon. It does not appear that the financial position of the lodge was at the time good. Though the treasurer’s accounts for 1844 and 1845 were audited by a committee appointed for the purpose and passed during this year the state thereof is not recorded in the minutes.

It would seem however that upto this time Lodge Rising Star was using the lodge rooms without any payment. The number of members at the close of the year was 76. The lodge was financially worse off at the end of this year than it was at the end of 1845; for the disbursements were Rs. 879 while the receipts were only Rs. 340 and the debit balance of Rs. 152-13-0, was still unpaid to Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee, so that on the whole the lodge owed that Brother Rs. 691-13-0. But as the proceedings of 1851 will show Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee was himself responsible for the ebb in the finances, as he was negligent in the recovery of dues during the time he was also Acting Treasurer in addition to being the Secretary of the lodge.

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## CHAPTER V.

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1847—BROTHER Le-Geyt was reinstalled into the chair and was Worshipful Master for the second time in 1847. The minutes again show that the installation took place in the first degree. Only two meetings were held during that year, namely, on 30th March and 15th September and the latter was held in the new Lodge Rooms "No. 5, Grant's Buildings, Colaba." Brother Gibbs of the Civil Service was elected as a joining member this year.

1848—In the year 1848 there was neither increase nor decrease in the number of members and the meetings held were also only two. Brother LeGeyt having resigned Brother Lynch was at the first meeting held on 3rd January, 1848, unanimously elected Right Worshipful Master for that year, and after he subscribed to the usual charges was installed into the Eastern Chair, and appointed his Office-bearers (of whom Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee was again Secretary) who were all invested at the next meeting held on 3rd February, 1848.

The fee for joining members was reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 5. during this year.

1849—In the year 1849, the lodge entered upon the 6th year of its existence. It appears that all the golden grain had been gathered by that time in the ten native Brethren including Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee admitted therein and the mead threatened to look bare as more native gentlemen of the class for whom the lodge was established were not forthcoming. The matter engaged the serious attention of the Brethren and the prosperity and continuance of the lodge were for the first time threatened and Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee and some of

the other Brethren thought that the crisis would be averted by the lodge being empowered to admit Europeans as well as Natives and being reconstructed on that basis. Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes was then again stationed in Bombay and taking advantage of that circumstance the Brethren at their very first meeting held on 3rd January again unanimously elected him to be the Master (though he was under a previous resolution its Honorary Master) in place of Brother Lynch, who evidently resigned the chair to him. It was at the same meeting that Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee brought forward certain resolutions for the reconstruction of the Lodge and establishing it on a sound basis. 'They were seconded by the Right Worshipful Brother Lynch' and were as follows:—

“That it being manifest that either the Lodge Rising Star of Western India cease to exist on account of there being not eligible Native candidates to admit into it or be reconstructed on another principle than the original one is so far as receiving only Natives therein it is proposed that the following resolution be adopted at the next meeting of the lodge.

*Firstly.*—That the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master under the conditions especially defined in our letter to his address of the 11th December 1843, requesting him to establish the lodge be solicited to empower us to receive European as well as Native candidates for Masonry into our lodge.

*Secondly.*—That the initiation passing and raising fees be reduced to one-half and that the joining fees be raised to one gold mohur or Rs. 15.

*Thirdly.*—That all the members of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India shall pay a monthly fee of Rs. 3. each under the penalty prescribed in its bye-laws.

*Fourthly.*—That these resolutions be communicated to all the members of the lodge with a request that they

would come forward and assist in establishing the lodge on a firm basis."

These resolutions were then circulated amongst the members and brought before the lodge for discussion at the next meeting held on 4th September, but as they had not been previously notified in the circular convening the meeting the consideration thereof was postponed till the following meeting which was held on 15th September and at that meeting the lodge passed the resolution about reducing the initiation passing and raising fees by one-half and raising the joining fee to Rs. 15; but in regard to the reconstruction it resolved that under the circumstances of the case detailed by a reference to the proceedings of the meeting held on the 15th December 1843 it was inexpedient to enter upon a consideration of the first resolution.

The letter of 11th December 1843 referred to in the first resolution is not available amongst the records of the Lodge. It may be however that the date of the letter was not correctly given therein, for the proceedings of the meeting of 15th December 1843, which have been already mentioned refer only to the requisition of 19th November, 1843, made for the establishment of the lodge and the Provincial Grand Master's reply thereto of 1st December following and the warrant of dispensation dated 15th December 1843. The discussion is not given in the minutes nor is it stated that any member spoke on the resolution excepting the Right Worshipful Master Dr. Burnes. The lodge was established for the reception of Natives only and the requisition of 19th November 1843, had contained a pledge on the part of the members of Lodge Perseverance who had signed it that they would not initiate Europeans into it without the special sanction of the Provincial Grand Master and that pledge had evidently been accepted then and it is probable that it was considered advisable to strictly adhere to it as upon

the faith thereof the warrant had been granted. It also does not appear why the initiation passing and raising fees were reduced and the joining fees were raised; for no discussion thereon is recorded in the minutes. The fees in the former case were not at all prohibitive; yet the reduction was resolved upon by one-half and that must have been probably with the object of throwing open the portals of the lodge on easier terms so far. For the first time therefore the total fee for the three degrees was fixed at Rs. 150 the joining fee was raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15; but it was still kept at much less than the original fee which it will be remembered was Rs. 50.

This year there was an increase of three members, of whom one was a joining member and two were ordinary members so that the number of members on the roll at the end of the year was 79.

The joining members was Brother Dr. James W. Winchester, Provincial Grand Secretary of Western India, and the ordinary members were Bhugwandas Beeneram and Cawasji Sorabji Patel.

The circumstances of the initiation of Bhugwandas Beneeram are rather interesting and show that though the lodge was in need of members yet it did not admit anybody even in such critical times except after the strictest scrutiny into his principles, faith and character and paid a rigid attention to quality not setting any value upon quantity alone. The candidate was a Hindoo professing the Jain religion and belonged to the Dhondia sect amongst the Jains and was a partner in a big and respectable banking firm at Ahmudnagger in the Central Provinces. He was extremely anxious to become a Freemason and had come all the way from there to Bombay at considerable expense for that purpose. It appears from a letter written to Brother Dr. Winchester by one Brother C. E. Anderson, of the "First Sweepers" Poona, that there was no native in any of the lodges existing in

Poona, where the candidate first betook himself, and that the candidate was referred to him for advice in the matter. The candidate made an application in writing in Gujarati, a translation whereof is in the following terms:—

“To the Worshipful Master and officers and members of the Lodge Rising Star (of Western India) at Bombay. Written by,—I, Bhugwandass Beeneeram the undersigned earnestly represent that there are three divisions of tribes of the Jains: Switambari, Digambari and Dhondia tribes and that I am a member of the Dhondia tribe. That we of the Dhondia faith have no relation of any kind soever with either the Hindu faith or their Shastras but that our belief on the contrary is quite opposed to them. That we Dhondias are even distinct from other divisions, Switambari and Digambari, of the Jains and observe none of their ceremonial forms and adorations of images. That we of Dhondia tribe save and except our Bhagwan (Supreme Being) the Lord of the Universe and all that appertains to the same, animated and inanimated, recognise none else. We neither worship nor adore any image or object of any kind soever under any circumstances. Nor in our Thanuk (place of worship) walls we suffer any such thing to be worshipped or adored. Our Jutees (priests) when we gather in our Thanuk recite lectures on the good deeds of those who existed and departed from this world and descriptive of the moral code to guide us in our pursuits of life. From whatever our Jutees have explained to us we firmly believe that the Bhagwan who is the first cause of everything created and would create hundreds of millions of worlds and that we consider all the stars of the firmament to be as many worlds and that Bhagwan has so created them as by his wisdom of construction, they exist and perish and that none but He alone can comprehend the philosophy of such creation. That human beings are endowed with sense to know what is good and

what is bad and that they will merit rewards and punishments in the world to come according to what they do in this. Believing in this we reckon all mankind to be equal and of one stock, be what their creed or caste, and love others as we would regard our own selves and under any circumstances not to destroy or injure any beings whether of human or brute creation. This is the sum total of our faith and to which I conscientiously adhere. That I am above the age of twenty-one years dependent on no one and feel fully desirous of being admitted into your assembly of Masons. I solicit this admission neither at the solicitation of any one nor under any improper idea of any worldly expectation but on the contrary from the knowledge of the favorable reports I have heard of your institution and a desire to obtain and prosecute knowledge and researches and that I will cheerfully conform to all the rules and regulations of your lodge. In witness thereof I subscribe my name on this 15th day of September 1849.

*Witness,* BHUGWANDASS BEENEERAM.  
MANECKJEE CURSETJEE, ESQR.

The candidate had obtained certificates as to his respectability from Mr. F. Manisty, who was then the Civil Surgeon of Ahmednagar, and Captain J. W. Auld, who was the Police Superintendent of that place and attached to the Bheel Corps. These certificates were forwarded through Brother H. Ellis of the Civil Service to Brother Dr. Winchester and were submitted by the latter to Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee for consideration and his view as to whether the candidate should be admitted into the order.

Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee instituted independent inquiries into the qualifications of the candidate and obtained satisfactory replies from residents of Ahmednagar of his acquaintance. He was also satisfied from

personal interviews he appears to have had with the candidate that he was deserving of the honour he sought. He thereupon submitted all the papers to the Right Worshipful Master Dr. Burnes together with a letter of recommendation for the candidate's admission signed by three members of the lodge. *viz*:—Ardeshir Cursetjee Wadia, Ali Akbar and Mahomed Jaffer. A meeting was then held on 15th November 1849 and the candidate's application and all other papers were placed before it but as the majority of the native brethren were absent owing to the Mohurum, the final decision of the case was postponed to the 1st December following. The Right Worshipful Master however expressed at the meeting his own opinion that having heard the candidate's declaration in which he had so clearly expressed his faith, which he, the Right Worshipful Master knew to be so totally different from Hindus, and the result of the strictest inquiry and scrutiny instituted into his moral character having proved satisfactory he would support the application.

The adjourned meeting of the lodge was held on 1st December 1849 and Bhagwandas was unanimously elected by ballot and initiated. That was the last meeting of the year and also much to the regret of the brethren the last meeting at which Dr. Burnes presided over the lodge. He was then about to leave the country and the brethren unanimously passed, on the proposal of Brother Maneckji Cursetji, the following resolution:—

“That the lodge contemplates with unfeigned grief the approaching departure from India of our most esteemed Brother Burnes, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Western India and the master and founder of this lodge, determines to record the deep sense of the obligations the lodge and every member thereof collectively and individually owe him for all he did in his several capacities for the advancement of the cause of Freemasonry in general and of the interest

of this lodge in particular, with its sincerest wishes for his future health, happiness and success in life and resolves upon electing Brother Burnes its founder to be its Honorary Master for life, all the lodge rolls and returns being headed by his name."

This was the last mark of respect and esteem of the lodge towards its worthy founder, a mark fully deserved.

Brother Burnes thanked the lodge, and in doing so said the honour was peculiarly gratifying to his feelings as it maintained his name in connection with the lodge and that he would ever continue the deepest interest in the prosperity of the lodge which he took pride in founding and which by its construction had practically demonstrated the principles of Freemasonry.

In the minutes of this meeting is a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary, Nilgiri Lodge, Ootacamund, on 5th November, 1849, by Brother Maneckji Cursetji as Secretary to the Provincial Grand Master for native correspondence and Senior Warden of the lodge, on the subject of the proposed admission of a Parsee into the Order. It is a short letter but its value consists in the enunciation of the strict and noble principles followed by the lodge. (*Vide Appendix C.*)

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## CHAPTER VI.

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1850.—In the year 1850 four meetings were held of which one was an emergent meeting, and there were two initiations and one passing. There was an addition also of three members against the loss of two whose names were struck out for default in payment of their subscriptions, and one of whom had also died.

The three new members were Moosa Khan, assistant moonshi to the Persian Secretary to Government (who was an initiate) and Brothers Musgrave and Harrison, who were joining members.

Brother Barr was the Right Worshipful Master during the year and Brother Maneckji Cursetji was again the Senior Warden. The new master was elected and installed at the first meeting held on 8th January 1850, and the office-bearers of the year were also nominated by him at the same meeting. For the first time mention is made in the minutes of that meeting of an official visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The accounts of the lodge had, it appears, been carelessly kept and were in a confused state and had been examined by a committee of four members and their report was that Brother Maneckji Cursetji had expended out of his own pocket a sum of Rs. 619 over and above the receipts that had come to his hands as acting Treasurer during the year 1844 to 1850, and that as against that sum there were outstanding dues of the amount of Rs. 333 which still left a balance of Rs. 386 due to Brother Maneckji Cursetji and that that Brother had kindly agreed to give up the balance to close the accounts.

It has already been seen that at the end of the year 1846 the lodge owed Brother Maneckji Cursetji Rs. 591-13-0. There were no receipts in 1847 and 1848 while those in 1849 and 1850 amounted to Rs. 300. The disbursements during the years 1847, 1848, 1849 and 1850 were Rs. 227-10-2, so that at the end of 1850 the debit balance was Rs. 619.

It was also stated in the report that as the lodge had scarcely worked during the preceding two years and as no particular expenses had been incurred the members had not paid their subscriptions for those years, they not having been called upon to do so.

1851.—In 1851 the number of members increased by five, being one joining member and four initiates. During the year, only three meetings were held including the anniversary meeting held on St. John's Day. The joining member was a Brother named Marcus Joseph and the initiates were Mirza Hoosan Khan (Persian Consul in Bombay) and Mahomed Saduck, and Haji Mehedy Shirazi (two leading Persian Mogul merchants) and Maneckjee Limjee Anteria, assistant to Messrs. Jehangir Nusserwanjee & Co.

At the very first meeting Brother Blowers was elected Right Worshipful Master and he reappointed and confirmed as his office-bearers the brethren who had held office during the preceding year. Evidently there being no work the next meeting was held on 16th December 1851, and at that meeting Brother Lynch was elected master for the ensuing year. The financial condition of the lodge had, it appears become very unsatisfactory by this time and Brother Maneckji Cursetji with the object of preventing a recurrence of any loss and placing the lodge on a safe and sure footing read at the meeting of 16th December 1851 a memorandum referring to the state of the accounts and embodying the following

propositions for the better government of the lodge in future:—

“That from and after the ensuing St. John’s Day, the 27th instant, Section XXIII of the By-laws shall remain as originally adopted on 15th November 1844, and not as subsequently altered or amended on the 15th September, 1849, or, in other words, the fees payable to the lodge shall be as follows:—

For Initiation	... Rupees two hundred.
„ Second degree	... Rupees forty.
„ Third degree	... Rupees sixty.
„ Joinings	... Rupees fifty.

“The Treasurer’s receipt acknowledging the same must accompany the declaration as voucher previous to the candidate being initiated, passed or raised.”

“That Section XXIV of the By-laws be altered or amended as follows:—

“Every member initiated, passed or raised in the lodge shall have the option either of paying four rupees a month for three years or a sum of rupees one hundred as contribution to entitle him to become a life-member of the lodge without the payment of any such subscription.

“That every joining member subscribing to no other lodge in Bombay shall either pay a monthly subscription of rupees two for three years or a sum of rupees fifty as composition, whilst every member subscribing to any other lodge in Bombay shall pay one rupee a month for 3 years or a sum of rupees twenty-five as composition to entitle him to become a life-member of the lodge.

“That the original and affiliated members of the lodge should be exempted from the above rules and that other members who refuse to act up to one or the other of the above propositions shall cease to be borne on the lodge rolls.”

The proposition was seconded by Right Worshipful Brother Le Geyt, who was then the Provincial Grand Master of Western India, and left over to be considered at the next meeting.

On 27th December, St. John's Day, the next meeting was held, and the Master-elect, Brother Lynch, was duly installed in the chair, and delivered an address in Persian explaining the working tools appertaining to the first degree. The four new members were also all balloted for and elected and initiated on the same night.

Brother Maneckji Cursetjee's proposition was then brought on, discussed and approved of.

An unpleasant incident, which threatened to disturb the harmony subsisting between the lodge and Lodge Perseverance, happened about this time; and was evidently due to a misunderstanding on the part of Lodge Perseverance.

The communications of the lodge were usually dated and its meetings were summoned to be held at the Lodge Rooms, Colaba, and in consonance with that practice Brother Maneckji Cursetjee, who was then officiating Secretary in addition to being Senior Warden, had issued a circular, dated 20th December, 1851, dated at and convening the anniversary meeting of 27th December at the Lodge Rooms, and this circular had, as usual, been sent to Lodge Perseverance for its information, and had come to the knowledge of its Master, Right Worshipful Brother C. Ashburner, who thought that Brother Maneckji Cursetjee had no authority to so date the communication and summon the meeting without his consent and previous communication to him.

It appears that the matter was discussed personally between Brother Maneckji Cursetjee and Brother Ashburner, and the latter was informed of the resolution which was passed by the Provincial Grand Lodge on 24th November 1846, whereby the lodge was to have the use of the Lodge Rooms and was not to pay anything for rent

servants' wages and lighting expenses, which were all to be paid by Lodge Perseverance, and for that accommodation was to pay a moiety of all receipts to Lodge Perseverance, but Brother Ashburner was not aware of the same. The Lodge Rooms were also then under repairs, and Lodge Perseverance intended to hold a ball there on or about the 7th or 12th January, which, of course, was not a masonic purpose.

Further, it appears that Lodge Perseverance had not received fees from this lodge since the year 1848, and Rising Star had not been paid its share in a sum of Rupees five hundred which had been left by the Marquis of Dalhousie, the Governor-General of India (while his Lordship was in Bombay in the year 1850) in the hands of Lodge Perseverance for distribution amongst the lodges in Bombay for charitable purposes, and those circumstances the Master of Lodge Perseverance thought showed that the Lodge Rising Star was defunct. The points required further discussion, but as the anniversary meeting was to come off on the 27th December, and the objection was not withdrawn, Brother Maneckji Cursetjee amended the circular of 20th December 1851, by adding a postscript dated 24th December 1851 stating that under the circumstances to be brought to the notice of, and to be discussed by the lodge the anniversary meeting would be held at Brother Ali Akbar Khan's Babula Tank House instead of at the Lodge Rooms.

Besides the personal discussion there was official correspondence between the Secretary of Lodge Perseverance and Brother Maneckji Cursetjee and the masters of both the lodges.

The Secretary of Lodge Perseverance, Brother W. M. Ellis, had addressed a letter to Brother Maneckji Cursetjee, inquiring why the communications were dated and the meetings summoned at the Lodge Rooms, and Brother Maneckji Cursetjee replied pointing out that the lodge

and Lodge Perseverance were both working under the same authority and in the same rooms, where they had severally their warrants deposited and hanging up in frames, and that since the establishment of the lodge no previous consent had ever been obtained, or had been considered necessary to be obtained, from the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance, and that all that was necessary to be done was for the Secretary of the lodge to intimate to the Secretary of Lodge Perseverance the date and time of its meetings.

He also enclosed a copy of the correspondence and resolutions passed by and between the lodge and Lodge Perseverance and the Provincial Grand Lodge, and added that the privilege of holding its meetings in the Lodge Rooms had not been accorded to the lodge as a favour or without any consideration, for the furniture in the Lodge Rooms had been paid for by the three lodges in certain proportions, and the proportion of Lodge Rising Star of Western India was by far the larger of them, that up to 1847 the lodge had paid its quota of rent and expenses, that since then it had little or no work and met but once or so a year at daytime and not at night for form sake, and not having been called upon to pay had not under the circumstances paid anything to Lodge Perseverance, and that the decorations in the Lodge Rooms were the personal property of Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Burnes, who had presented same on his departure for the use of the Provincial Grand Lodge, Lodge Perseverance, and Lodge Rising Star, and of the Chapter.

Four candidates had then been already proposed, and Brother Maneckji Cursetjee intimated in his reply that should they be elected and initiated at the anniversary meeting, Lodge Perseverance would, as a matter of right, get half of the fees amounting to rupees four hundred, and that for a day's use of the rooms, and last, though not the least, Brother Maneckji Cursetjee expressed his

certain belief that harmonious feelings subsisted between the two lodges.

The personal discussion and correspondence were not without the desired effect, for within a fortnight or so the objection was waived, and the Master of Lodge Perseverance wrote to the Master of Lodge Rising Star, Brother H. B. Lynch, intimating that he and his lodge were very desirous of preserving the friendly relations which had existed heretofore between the two lodges, and in order to avert the possibility of being ever again disappointed in obtaining the use of the Lodge Rooms, suggested the propriety of the master of the lodge fixing on the days of meetings in previous communication, with himself or the master for the time being of Lodge Perseverance, so that the two lodges might not each fix the same evening for its meetings, and he also adverted to the fact that connected in an intimate degree with the cordial reciprocal good understanding between the members of the two lodges was that of several of the brethren of Lodge Rising Star being *ex officio* extra members of Lodge Perseverance and *vice versa*, and in order that the resolution of 3rd March, 1845, might be acted upon in future he asked for a list of the members of the lodge on the rolls at that date. He also offered to pay to the lodge its proper share, *viz.*, one-third or one-half of the sum of rupees five hundred left by Lord Dalhousie which he said would be divided in due proportions between the lodge, Lodge Perseverance, and Lodge St. George (which had already been constituted under the English jurisdiction, on 18th May, 1848) and asked for a moiety of all receipts of the lodge since the last payment made by it. Brother Lynch replied in suitable terms, and the lodge in due course paid on 22nd March, 1852, what was due to Lodge Perseverance according to the accounts after taking credit for its proportion of the said sum of rupees five hundred.

A copy of the correspondence is set out in Appendix D.

Some letters in addition to those recorded had passed and Lodge Perseverance had made a claim which the lodge thought was not sustainable, and it still engaged the attention of the lodge, and it will be seen was in the next year discussed in a thorough manner.

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## CHAPTER VII.

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1852—The next year was an eventful one, and the subjects that were brought up in the first few meetings related to the financial condition of the lodge and the differences with Lodge Perseverance. During the year twelve meetings were held, including the installation meeting and three extra meetings.

The first meeting was held on 15th January 1852 at Brother Maneckji Cursetjee's "Byculla Villa," and the correspondence that had passed by that time between the lodge and Lodge Perseverance, regarding the use of the Lodge Rooms, was read and considered thereat, and two resolutions were passed as follows:—

"That the meeting observed with regret the existing differences between the two lodges which appear to have been based upon a misunderstanding on the part of Perseverance and is easy of settlement.

"That there being no fund belonging to the lodge in hand, the lodge being still in debt to Brother officiating Treasurer for the past year, and though the Lodge Perseverance could have no claim, justly speaking, to a moiety of the receipts of the four initiations on the 27th ultimo, when the ceremony thereof took place at other than the Lodge Rooms, the use of which Perseverance refused to allow, it being occupied by that body for other than masonic purposes, yet Brother Maneckji Cursetji in order to obviate the difficulties proposed to give up his claim on the existing fund of the lodge, to allow of a moiety thereof being handed over to Perseverance."

The lodge thanked Brother Maneckji Cursetjee for his generous offer to accommodate the differences and recorded its appreciation of the same.

After these resolutions were passed Brother Maneckji Cursetjee closed the matter as stated above.

At this meeting a question was raised by Brother Wellis as to the legality or otherwise of admitting members on payment of a composition money or without any payment at all, as resolved upon at the last meeting, and suggested that sections 13 and 14 of the By-laws should be so amended as to bind the lodge in the spirit of masonic constitution, and that the subject should be reconsidered at the next meeting, and consequently the proceedings of the last convocation were confirmed but with the exception suggested.

An extra meeting was then held on 8th March in a "room above the Post Office," and at that meeting a committee consisting of the Right Worshipful Master and Brothers Barr, Blowers, Wellis, and Maneckji Cursetjee, was appointed to ascertain and report to the members generally the exact position the lodge was then in, in respect to its working and paying members, and whether circumstances had occurred to render any alteration in its By-laws or rules expedient, and to offer such suggestions as the committee might think advisable for the good of the lodge. This committee (which had on it two members who were then past masters of Lodge Perseverance) resolved that as Lodge Perseverance had apparently lost sight of the compact, which was entered into between the two lodges at the suggestion of the late and the then Provincial Grand Masters, the lodge should thenceforth be under no restriction as to the admission of Europeans as well as Natives to the benefit of the Craft, subject to its fundamental rules as laid down in the constitution, and that with that view it was expedient to reconstruct the lodge upon an amended principle to what

it originally was intended, and they recommended that the resolution passed at the meeting of 27th December, 1851, and not confirmed at the meeting of 15th January, 1852, be not confirmed, and that instead of meeting once in two months the lodge should hold regular monthly meetings, or as often otherwise as circumstances would render it necessary, and that the fees should be reduced to rupees seventy-five for initiation, rupees twenty for passing, rupees thirty for raising, rupees fifteen for joining and rupees three for monthly subscription for every member except the original ones, if they be subscribing members to any other lodge.

They also recommended that the report should be circulated amongst the members and that new By-laws or modifications in the existing By-laws should be prepared and submitted to a general meeting after they were in possession of the views of a majority, if not of all the members, to support the lodge on the principle contained in the report.

On the 27th March the third regular meeting was held at the Lodge Rooms, as by 22nd March, 1852, the differences between the lodge and Lodge Perseverance had been almost adjusted and a Brother named Martin Boyce was elected a joining member. He was balloted for and elected the master of the lodge in place of Brother Lynch, who it appears had to leave Bombay on duty and had resigned, and was duly installed thereat in the chair and appointed and invested his office-bearers for the year.

Two other Brothers, namely Brothers Rowland Hamilton, and M. O'Meally, were also elected joining members, at this meeting, and the latter was appointed Inner Guard for the year. Brother Maneckji Cursetjee was again appointed Secretary of the lodge, and was now the only Native member holding office.

The report of the committee already referred to, as also a draft of the new By-laws stated in the minutes to have

been prepared, were submitted at the meeting, and after discussion and deliberation were fully approved and unanimously passed for the future government of the lodge.

The meeting also appointed a finance committee in addition to appointing a Treasurer, for better control over the receipts and expenditure, and that the financial condition of the lodge might not again suffer.

Lodge Perseverance had, it appears, rescinded about this time the resolution it had passed on 3rd March, 1845, and resolved that members of Lodge Rising Star wishing to join that lodge, must be balloted for and pay the joining fee.

The differences between the two lodges and the claims preferred by Lodge Perseverance had not then been finally adjusted, and the abrogation of the resolution of 3rd March 1845, in the then state of circumstances, appears to have caused dissatisfaction to the lodge.

A letter from the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance was read at this meeting of 20th April, 1852, in continuation of the correspondence previously recorded, and a committee was appointed of the Right Worshipful Master, and Senior and Junior Wardens and Senior Deacon and Secretary with power to add to their number to inquire into and report on all matters touching the misunderstanding existing between the two lodges with a view to the same being honourably adjusted.

This special committee considered the whole correspondence that had passed between the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of both lodges, and submitted their report to an extraordinary meeting of the lodge held on 10th May 1852.

It is stated in the report that the committee greatly regretted that the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance should have thought it necessary to address such a letter to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge Rising Star as the one dated 30th January, 1852 (which

is not available) which from the tone and spirit they trusted had not been written with the concurrence and approbation of the brethren of Perseverance in lodge assembled, and that they considered the reply thereto as characterised throughout by the mild and truly masonic feeling which should always mark communications, personal or otherwise, between members of the Craft and especially between the masters of the different lodges, and expressed their opinion that the Right Worshipful Brother Boyce had taken a fair and just view of the claims of Lodge Perseverance, and that the financial result shown in his letter was quite correct, and expressed their concurrence with and approval of his said letter.

As regards the future course of the lodge, the Committee were of opinion that as the payments of Lodge Rising Star of half its receipts to Lodge Perseverance, under the resolution of the Provincial Grand Lodge, were wholly disproportionate to the accommodation and benefit received by her for one or at most two nights in the month of the lodge rooms and paraphernalia (the proprietary right in which, however, was vested in the two lodges, and the Provincial Grand Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter) and as the effect of the resolution was to divert in fact the greatest portion of her funds into the treasury of Lodge Perseverance and to benefit Lodge Perseverance at the expense of Lodge Rising Star, which could not have been the desire of either the Provincial Grand Lodge or of Lodge Perseverance, the said resolution should be modified, and that an immediate application should be made to the Provincial Grand Master for that purpose, and recommended that an arrangement should be placed before the Provincial Grand Lodge and Lodge Perseverance for their consideration on the basis that the lodge should continue to have the use of the lodge rooms, furniture and refreshment kit, and in consideration of

such accommodation should pay such rent and cost of establishment as may be determined upon by the Provincial Grand Lodge and Lodge Perseverance, in addition to a monthly allowance for the use of the kit and all expenses attending its meetings on account of lights, extra servants and refreshments, and that a Committee consisting of two members of both bodies should be appointed to settle the matter with one officer of the Grand Lodge as Umpire or President.

Adverting to the abrogation by Lodge Perseverance of its resolution of 3rd March 1845, and the new resolution passed by Lodge Perseverance under which any member of this lodge desiring to join it was required to be balloted for and to pay a joining fee, the Committee in their report expressed their regret that that should have been done, and recommended that as both lodges were bonded together for the promotion of the best interests of Freemasonry in India, and the good feeling which the lodge had always had for Lodge Perseverance still existed, the privilege which the lodge, by its resolution also of 3rd March 1845 had accorded to the brethren of Lodge Perseverance, should be continued and remain in full force.

The report was signed by Brothers Blowers, Wellis, Kingston, M. O'Meally and Maneckji Cursetjee.

The extraordinary meeting approved of the report and unanimously adopted it, and resolved that the suggestions therein made should be submitted to the Provincial Grand Master and that a copy of same should be forwarded to the master and brethren of Lodge Perseverance. (For a copy of the Report *vide* Appendix E.)

Right Worshipful Brother Boyce, who during his short tenure of office had taken up so warmly the cause of the lodge, and asserted its position and claims with promptitude and firmness, and had endeared himself to the brethren, was just then about to go to England for a

short time, and had given out his intention in that behalf at a meeting of the lodge held on 20th May, 1852. The brethren were not slow in appreciating his worth and services, for at the same meeting they passed an unanimous resolution expressing the regret of the lodge at his absence, though for a short time, and its sincere gratitude for his attention and zeal in taking an active part in advancing its interests and prosperity, and its best wishes for his speedy return.

Brother Blowers was also at the same meeting un-animously elected by ballot to be the officiating master during the absence of Brother Boyce, and he appointed his office-bearers, amongst whom Brother Maneckji Cursetjee was again given the post of Secretary.

The Committee's suggestions must have been placed before the Provincial Grand Lodge and Lodge Perseverance, and it appears a letter was then addressed by the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance to the Worshipful Master of this lodge, which was considered far from satisfactory, for an extraordinary meeting of the lodge was held again in "a room above the post-office" on 9th June at which the following three resolutions were unanimously passed :—

"1. That the question in dispute between the Lodges Perseverance and Rising Star of Western India, regarding the claims advanced by the former, having already been referred to the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, under resolution of this lodge of the 10th May last, the letter from the Worshipful Master of Perseverance just read be transmitted to the Secretary, Provincial Grand Lodge, together with the extract of this day's proceedings as supplemental to the correspondence already laid before that authority.

"2. That the brethren of Lodge Rising Star do extremely regret the tone of the communication addressed by the Worshipful Master of Perseverance to the Wor-

shipful Master of Rising Star, and as such a style as that adopted by the former is greatly to be deprecated, and as it is desirable to prevent future misunderstanding, the brethren resolve to discontinue the use of the rooms of Lodge Perseverance.

“3. That an application be made to the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance to deliver up such articles of furniture as might be found to belong to Rising Star and that Brothers Berry, O’Mealy and Maneckji Cursetjee be appointed a Committee to act in conjunction with such brethren of Perseverance as might be appointed by that lodge to settle this point.”

The next meeting, which was held on 7th August, was held at the residence of Brother Maneckji Cursetjee and at that meeting a Committee consisting of that Brother and Brothers Smith and Harrington was appointed to purchase the necessary kit and furniture of the lodge, and Brother Cross was authorised to print the new Byelaws of the lodge.

An incident occurred during this year which concerned Brother Blowers and Lodge Perseverance. As that Brother was, however, the officiating master of this lodge, it was not allowed to pass unnoticed, but was mentioned at a meeting of the lodge held on 20th August, 1852, and a resolution was passed thereon.

Brother Blowers had been the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance in the years 1845, 1848, and 1850, and on his vacating the chair in the last mentioned year some of the brethren of that lodge had determined to mark their sense of gratitude to him for his long-continued exertions in the cause of Masonry, and especially as connected with that lodge, by presenting to him a jewel and an address engrossed on vellum. The address bore the names of those who had joined together to present it, and foremost among them was the name of Brother Ashburner, who was then the Master of Lodge Persever-

ance, and had been presented to Brother Blowers on the 12th February, 1852, but shortly before presentation it had got soiled, and at the request of Brother Ashburner and another member of Lodge Perseverance, had been returned to them for being engrossed on a fresh sheet of vellum, and afterwards signed by the brethren who had signed it originally, but though repeatedly applied for it was not returned to Brother Blowers till 13th August, 1852, when, to his great astonishment and regret, he found that Brother Ashburner's name had been scored out with a pen.

Brother Barr, who was the Past Master of the lodge and also a Past Master of Lodge Perseverance, was present at the lodge meeting of 20th August, 1852, and he said he wanted to mention the matter, whereupon Brother Blowers vacated the chair temporarily and invested him with the Master's jewel and installed him and withdrew from the meeting. Brother Barr then narrated all the circumstances stating that he felt himself bound to do so in justice to Brother Blowers, who was then presiding over the lodge with a view to obtain from them an expression of their opinion as to what course that worthy Brother should adopt in the matter, and added that as it might be invidious either in the lodge or Brother Blowers to attach the blame of the act that had been committed to any individual, the best and the most masonic course in his opinion was for the lodge to express its sympathy with Brother Blowers, and to strongly urge upon him the necessity of laying the matter before the Provincial Grand Lodge with a view to its being properly investigated into by that body, and such ulterior steps being taken as the Provincial Grand Master and officers and members of the Grand Lodge might deem proper, and the lodge then passed by acclamation a resolution to that effect, after which Brother Blowers returned to the lodge, and on being informed of what had taken place

thanked the brethren and expressed his determination to follow the advice given to him.

At the meeting held on 21st September, 1852, Brother Blowers announced that Brother Ashburner having written to him a letter expressing his regret that in a moment of excitement he had erased his signature to the address and offering his sincere apology for the act, he had relinquished his intention of appealing to the Provincial Grand Lodge. (Brother Ashburner's letter is set out in Appendix F.)

Another incident which directly concerned the two lodges is also recorded in the minutes of the same meeting. Lodge Perseverance had contemplated initiating a Native gentleman residing in Bombay. The officiating Right Worshipful Master thought that such a procedure was contrary to the mutual understanding arrived at between the two lodges, when the lodge was founded expressly for the purpose of initiating Native candidates whose character Lodge Perseverance had not the same means of scrutinising so as to prevent the admission of unworthy men, and on his proposition seconded by Brother Maneckji Cursetjee, the lodge passed a resolution that a suitable letter be addressed to the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance requesting him in the event of his persisting in the initiation to defer doing so until the decision of the Grand Lodge could be obtained. The minutes do not contain any further allusion to this matter.

At this meeting the lodge also resolved on the proposal of the Worshipful Master, seconded by the Provincial Grand Master, who was present thereat, to hire certain apartments in "Grants Buildings" then about to be vacated by Brother Barr in conjunction with the Royal Arch Chapter, as they were well adapted for Masonic purposes.

During this year there was an increase of 24 members, of whom four were initiates, 19 joining members and one

honorary member. The four initiates were Aga Mahomed Tuckee, Sorabji Hormusji Mehta, Dinshaw Dorabji Mehta and Ardeshir Jamsetji Bhajiwalla. The joining members were Brothers Martin Boyce, Michael O'Meally, Rowland Hamilton, Professor Richard Tevhill Reed, James Jackson, David Campbell, J. Cross, J. Casterton, J. Dewey, J. D. Smith (all of Lodge Perseverance), J. W. West, R. J. Morris, Aratoon Jordan, H. Legett, John Brown, H. O. Flower, Ebenezer Nash, G. R. Ballingall and A. B. Leech. The honorary member was again a French nobleman of the name of Viscount De Brons Cézérac, hailing from the Lodge L'Anglaise St. John No. 204, Bordeaux, France, established at Bordeaux in 1732. He was elected honorary member at the meeting of 21st September, 1852, but before he was so elected an interesting ceremony had taken place. He delivered a speech (which was translated by a Brother named A. G. Roussac) in which he said he had been commissioned by his lodge to present Brother Blowers, Past Master of Lodge Perseverance and substitute-Master of Lodge Rising Star, with a master mason's jewel accompanied by a diploma conferring upon him the title of honorary member of that venerable lodge in return for masonic hospitality shown by him to numbers of French Freemasons visiting Bombay during the long period of 23 years, during which he was connected with Lodge Perseverance and a great portion of that time as master of that lodge. (*Vide Appendix G. which sets out the address.*)

The honour conferred was suitably acknowledged by the recipient thereof, and after that Viscount Brons was enrolled as an honorary member by acclamation.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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1853.—The year 1853, on the whole, passed off better than the previous one. In all thirteen meetings were held, of which three were emergent meetings and were convened for working off arrears of work. There was an increase of 28 members, being 11 initiates and 17 affiliates and joining members; against this increase there was one death and three resignations, of which, however, one did not count, as it was of Brother W. M. Wellis, one of the founders of the lodge, who, in consideration of that circumstance and also of the zeal he had throughout his membership and his holding offices in the lodge, evinced to promote its best interests was upon his resignation elected an honorary member by a special resolution recording the appreciation by the lodge of his services and help.

The new initiated members were Meer Jafferlikhan Bahadur, Merwanjee Maneckjee Sett, Aga Syed Hoosein, Nusserwanjee Bomonjee, Merwanjee Heerjibhoy Patell, Sorabjee Heerjibhoy, P. A. Rodrigues, Cawasjee Hirjibhoy, A.P. Carvalho, Nowrosjee Nanabhoy Framjee and Eduljee Pestonjee. Brother Rodrigues was the first Christian member, not a European, initiated in the lodge followed by Brother Carvalho. Brother Sorabjee Heerjibhoy was elected after three ballots were taken. It appears that he was first balloted for at a meeting held on 21st January, when, on the result being found unfavourable, Brother Wellis being of opinion that black balls against him were put in by mistake, the ballot was gone over again and proved favourable. Then the Secretary

brought to the notice of the Worshipful Senior Warden who was presiding over the lodge a feeling against the candidate manifested by some of the brethren, and thereupon a third ballot was taken which proved unfavourable. Then at the next meeting held on 21st February it was stated to the Worshipful Senior Warden by Brother O'Meally that Brother Sorabjee Hormusjee, who was then acting as Outer Guard, had influenced some brethren to black ball Brother Sorabjee Heerjibhoy under the impression that he was unworthy of admission, and that he seemed anxious to have him again brought to the ballot. Brother Sorabjee Hormusjee was then called to the pedestal to explain his inconsistent conduct, and he stated that he had been moved to thwart Brother Sorabjee's entrance pending the consent of his parents, whose feelings, he said, were held in the lodge as worthy of being consulted and for no other reason. Consequent upon that explanation Brother Sorabjee Heerjibhoy was again balloted for and unanimously elected.

The joining members and affiliates were Brothers J. V. Vinay, Henry Conybeare, Parry Jones, J. G. Mitchell, Frederick Darby, James King, G. F. Remington, Mackenzie, W. M. Ellis, L. Kobs, Francis Clough, Richard Newby, Edgar Whittaker, W. H. S. Crawford and G. Volkart (all of Lodge Perseverance) and Anthony Garjola of Lodge St. Andrews in the East and Brother A. G. Rousacc.

Brothers Garjola and Rousac were subsequently passed and raised in the lodge.

A gentleman of the name of Edward Trench was proposed for initiation, but the proposal was withdrawn upon the decision of the Grand Lodge restricting initiation in the lodge to Natives only.

During this year a resolution was passed by the lodge which provided that, in addition to the entrance fee of rupees five paid on affiliation, those members of Lodge

Perseverance who were original members thereof would be liable to pay from 1st March, 1853, a monthly subscription of one rupee.

The custom of sending to the Secretary of the Lodge Perseverance the summons convening the lodge meetings had not been observed then for some time past, and on the matter being mentioned at a meeting held on 18th April it was unanimously resolved to revive that old and good custom, and at a subsequent meeting were recorded a letter from the Secretary of the lodge to the Secretary of Lodge Perseverance requesting an interchange of circulars and expressive of the desire of the members of the lodge to receive those of Lodge Perseverance at their banquet at all times, and a letter in reply from the Secretary of that lodge accepting the cordial invitation and reciprocating the same. These were undoubtedly desirable steps on the part of both lodges towards maintaining harmony and peaceful relations, which during the preceding years were somewhat unfortunately disturbed.

But while the relations between the two lodges were smooth those between the members of the lodge themselves were a little disturbed, and in consequence of an unfortunate misunderstanding on the part of some members a charge was laid against Brother Maneckji Cursetjee and was investigated into by a Committee specially appointed for the purpose.

It appears that one Mr. Rustomjee Merwanjee was brought to the ballot but the result was unfavourable, and as soon as it was known Brother Maneckji Cursetji addressed the lodge saying he had been charged in conversation with some brother (whose name he did not give) with having attempted to form a clique in the lodge against the rejected candidate, and proceeded to deny and defend himself against the charge. Brother Cross then opposed Brother Maneckji Cursetjee and said he

undertook to prove the charge. Thereupon a Committee consisting of Brothers Balingall, the Worshipful Senior Warden, and Brothers Allen, Ellis, Dinshaw Dorabjee and Mahomed Saduck was appointed under Bye-law 36 to investigate the charge. The Committee subsequently made a report showing that the charge arose out of a misconception of Brother Maneckji Cursetjee's views by the Brother upon whose information Brother Cross had acted, and this report was read to the lodge meeting subsequently held. The report of the Committee, it is satisfactory to note, cleared the aggrieved Brother's character and under the said Bye-law 36 was the final decision in the matter.

After this rather unpleasant incident complete harmony does not seem to have prevailed again in the lodge, for at the last meeting held on 20th December 1853, one Mr. Muncherjee Shapurjee Mehta, proposed for initiation, and three brothers named E. Roussac, Evans, and Lauchlam proposed for affiliation, were rejected on the ballot. The ballot for the three brethren was taken collectively, but four black balls appearing the lodge resolved to suspend the individual balloting of these Brothers pending the decision of a question which the Right Worshipful Master signified his intention of laying before the Grand Lodge with the consent of the Wardens in consequence of the very extraordinary occurrence of unfavourable ballots in every case.

The minutes do not record any case of unfavourable ballot except those of the said Sorabjee Hirjeebhoy and Rustomjee Merwanjee already referred to, but the brethren all agreed with the Right Worshipful Master and seemed to think that the ballot was being unjustifiably abused.

The Bye-laws of the lodge were reprinted during this year, and from a printed copy available amongst the records it appears that they consisted of 47 articles.

Some of these articles may be shortly referred to here for information sake.

Bye-law 2 provided that in order to render the brethren as efficient as practicable in their masonic duties, a lodge of instruction should be held once every month.

Bye-law 5 specified the hours of assembling and closing, viz., 7 p. m. or such other hour as the master might appoint to 11 p. m.

Under Bye-law 22 three negatives or black balls were necessary on a ballot for rejecting a candidate.

Bye-law 27 provided that the total fees for the three degrees should be rupees one hundred and twenty-five and the joining fees rupees five and monthly subscription rupees three for every resident member except the original members of the lodge who were paying members of Lodge Perseverance or any other lodge.

Bye-law 41 provided that the lodge should hold a special convivial meeting in each year to celebrate the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist.

Bye-law 44 provided that all fines levied in the lodge should be placed to the credit of the lodge and applied to charitable purposes.

As to the monthly subscription of original members reference has already been made to the resolution passed during the year by which those members were required to pay one rupee per month.

A masonic banquet was given this year to Brother the Right Honourable Lord Fitz-Clarence, the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, and a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the lodge paid rupees 226-7-8 being its share of the expenses thereof. Previously thereto an address of welcome from the Scotch Masons had been presented to his Lordship, and the office-bearers of Lodge Rising Star had the privilege of signing it on its behalf as one of the bodies presenting it.

The Provincial Grand Master, Brother LeGeyt, was desirous of retiring from his exalted office of the head of the Fraternity in Western India as he was then shortly proceeding to Poona, and that circumstance was announced at the lodge meeting of the 7th April by Brother Blowers, who proposed that the lodge should pass a resolution expressing its confidence in that worthy Brother, and that they were undesirous of any change so long as he continued within the limits of that province. On this occasion Brother Maneckji Cursetjee, while seconding the proposal after it had received the approbation of the brethren by cheers, said that for his own self and the Native brethren he would add that in Right Worshipful Brother LeGeyt they recognised not only the originator of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, but its firm supporter through good report and bad report, its patron in its poverty, its friend in its strength, and its counsellor and guide in all seasons, and it therefore became the members of the lodge to deprecate the retirement of so true a friend from a position in Masonry which was due to his masonic merit and those merits could not be acknowledged too often.

Those words were but too truly spoken for the minutes are a proof of the great and warm interest which Brother LeGeyt took in the welfare of the lodge during the time he was its member and master. The resolution was duly conveyed to the Provincial Grand Master by a deputation consisting of Brother Ballingal (substitute-Master) and Brother Maneckji Cursetjee.

Brother M. O'Mealy was at the last meeting of the year (1854) elected and installed as the Master of the lodge for the ensuing year. The first thing that he did was to convene a meeting of the lodge on 3rd January, 1854, to consider the necessity and advisability of representing to the Grand Lodge the frequent supposed abuse of the ballot. At that time he read a letter which embodied the

views of himself and his wardens as to the supposed causes leading to the practice, and suggested the abolition of the ballot as one of the remedies to put a stop to the abuse. An animated discussion took place and a proposition for postponing the consideration of the question for three months was brought forward but lost. Then the sense of the meeting was taken as to the necessity and efficiency of the proposed remedy, but was found to be against the proposition, whereupon the Right Worshipful Master remarked that in the absence of any other advice he felt it to be his duty to report to the Grand Lodge that he believed the ballot was abused and to appeal to that authority for some remedy. The letter read in the meeting is not set out in the minutes nor is the discussion that took place thereon. From the minutes of the next year's meeting it appears that the Right Worshipful Master had appealed to the Grand Lodge, and the members of the Grand Lodge Committee were to consider the question, but the minutes do not contain anything further about the matter, and it does not appear what remedy the Grand Lodge suggested. At this time Brother Maneckji Cursetjee wrote a letter on the subject of the ballot to Brother Barr, who was the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee, which is dated 20th June 1854. It is an excellent commentary on the principles of the ballot, and embodies sound views and also contains information otherwise not available as to the then state of the lodge. It is set out at length in the minutes of 20th August, 1857.

The drastic remedy proposed by the Right Worshipful Master and Wardens was not accepted by the lodge. But the trouble still unfortunately continued. During this year six candidates were rejected on the ballot, and Brother Bhajiwalla, who had proposed two of them, stated at one of the meetings at which they were rejected, that a conspiracy had been formed by certain members to black-ball the candidates proposed by him, and that consequently

his candidates were not elected on the ballot. The Worshipful Master thereupon appointed a Committee consisting of Brothers Ballingall, Wellis, Cross, and Mahomed Saduck to investigate into the charge and to report upon it. The Committee enquired into the matter and made a report that in their opinion the charge was not proved, although there were strong grounds for suspecting that the ballot had been abused, and suggested that in order to prevent such occurrences in future, any Brother who should have any objection to a candidate's admission should state the same privately to the proposer or to the Right Worshipful Master, in order that the name mentioned may be withdrawn before being brought to the ballot. Under the Bye-laws in force at the time a candidate for initiation, if duly proposed and seconded at one meeting, and after the production of the usual declaration signed by him, was balloted for at the next meeting (Bye-law 21), and a Freemason proposed for affiliation was on production of his certificate and on being properly vouched for and duly proposed and seconded, balloted for at one and the same meeting. In the latter case no opportunity was afforded at all to the brethren to make inquiries into the character and qualifications of the proposed affiliate, and in the former case unless individual members made the necessary inquiry or knew anything against the proposed candidate nothing would be known, and the candidate was approved. This does not appear to have been considered satisfactory by some brethren and Brother Maneckji Cursetjee, at the close of the year, gave notice of his intention to lay before the next meeting of the lodge the following two propositions for modifying Bye-laws 21 and 26, namely:—

*Firstly*—That there shall be a Standing Committee of the lodge consisting of two Europeans and two Natives, (of whom the Worshipful Master be one with a casting voice) one Mahomedan and one Zoroastrian to inquire first into

the character and position of every candidate previous to his name being brought forward at the meeting. On the result of the inquiry being favourable he be proposed and seconded at a meeting to be balloted for at the next, and not to be initiated until the proceedings be confirmed at the third following meeting.

*Secondly*—That no joining member be balloted for on the night of his proposition, but at the next regular meeting, his names and the name of the Brothers by whom proposed and seconded appearing in the meantime on the summons.

During the year sixteen meetings in all were held, of which five were emergent meetings convened for working off arrears. This was the largest number of meetings held in a year since the establishment of the lodge.

There was an increase of 17 members, of whom 7 were initiates, one a rejoining member and the rest affiliates. Against this increase there were two resignations, one of them being of Brother Barr, one of the originators of the lodge, which was accepted with regret, and after the lodge had recorded its appreciation of his past services. At the end of the year, therefore, the lodge was still better off by 15 members, one of whom still continues to be borne on its rolls as an honorary member and the oldest member, and the other of whom until 20th August 1909 continued as the oldest subscribing member of the lodge. They were Brother Dadabhoy Naorojee, the Grand Old Man of India, who subsequently as is well known became a member of the British House of Commons and attained the highest distinction which a Native of India can aspire to, and in other ways has most honourably distinguished himself as a great public man, and Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Kama, who had during his masonic career become a worthy pattern for imitation and had proved himself a staunch champion of masonic rectitude and integrity and a firm supporter of the interests of the Craft

in general and this lodge in particular. The 24th of August 1854 was indeed a lucky day for this lodge, as on that day the lodge hailed and admitted within its sacred walls Brother Kama, who ever since reflected great credit and honour on the lodge which was always justly proud to own him as its child. The other new members were Haji Mirza Mahomed, Aga Mahomed Cazini, Rustomjee Byramjee, Nowrojee Maneckji Lungrana and Hormusjee Pestonjee Framjee. The rejoining member was Brother Frederick Darby. The affiliates were Brothers Edward Roussac, John Evans, William Johnson, Cursetjee Bomonjee Panthucky, Muncherjee Pestonjee Sethna, W. H. Macdonald, J. Jamieson, J. B. Stainbank and D. Campbell. Brother Muncherjee Pestonjee Sethna was only an entered apprentice hailing from Lodge Zetland, Singapore, and took his second and third degrees in the lodge. In this year two Hindoo gentlemen were proposed for initiation, and a discussion arose as to their eligibility so long as they adhered to those who professed polytheism. No satisfactory conclusion having been arrived at, the Worshipful Master, with the concurrence of the brethren generally agreed to elicit the opinion of the Committee of the Provincial Grand Lodge who were then, as stated before, also to consider the question of the ballot. But there is no further record about the matter in the minutes. The two gentlemen do not appear to have been elected.

It was in this year that the lodge unanimously passed a resolution at its meeting held on 20th February for the formation of a charitable fund called "The Rising Star Charitable Fund," on the same basis as that of the Lodge Perseverance. The Bye-laws in force at this time did not provide for the setting apart of any portion of the lodge fees for charitable purposes. This resolution was a step in the right direction, being in furtherance of one of the first teachings of masonry, *viz.*, "RELIEF."

For the first time the lodge presented in this year a Past Master's jewel. It does not appear to have been done before. This was a jewel presented to Right Worshipful Brother Ballingall as part of a testimonial stated to have been voted to him as a slight token of the appreciation of the lodge of his services during the past year and of their sense of esteem for the able manner in which he had fulfilled his duties.

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## CHAPTER IX.

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1855—Brother W. H. S. Crawford was elected and duly installed at the anniversary meeting as the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and Brother Dadabhoy Nowroji was appointed Secretary.

The year began with an unfortunate incident, for one of the brethren, namely Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee Sethna, challenged the legality of the election of the Right Worshipful Master, and preferred his complaint in that behalf to the Provincial Grand Master, and forwarded it to the Right Worshipful Master for being submitted to him, and also addressed a letter to the lodge protesting against the legality of its further proceedings pending the decision of the Provincial Grand Master. He also forwarded a copy of his complaint direct to the Provincial Grand Secretary for being placed before the Provincial Grand Master. At the very first meeting held on 28th January these letters of the complaining Brother were read. The Right Worshipful Master declared that Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee had rendered himself liable to punishment under Bye-laws 38 and 43, in that he had forwarded his complaint direct to the Provincial Grand Secretary instead of as provided for by Bye-law 38, through the Master, and decided that a Special Committee should be appointed consisting of the Standing Committee of the lodge and Brothers Wellis (Chaplain) and Ballingall (who had volunteered to join in it) to report on the matter, and on Brother O'Meally's suggestion the Secretary was requested and agreed to be present in the Committee with the proceedings.

The ground of the complaint is not set out in the minutes of that meeting, but it appears from subsequent proceedings that the ground was that proxies were improperly admitted to the ballot box at the election contrary to the Constitutions and the Bye-laws of the lodge. The Bye-law which regulated the election of the Worshipful Master was Bye-law No. 8, which prescribed election by ballot.

Bye-law 38 distinctly required an appeal by any Brother to the Provincial Grand Lodge against any decision or proceedings of the lodge to be preferred through the Worshipful Master of the lodge, and under Bye-Law 43 any Brother wilfully infringing any Bye-law could be fined or dealt with according to the decision of the majority of the lodge. It also appears that Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee after making the complaint did not attend the regular lodge meetings pending the decision of the Provincial Grand lodge.

At the next meeting held on 20th February the report of the Committee on the subject of Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee's complaint that the election of the Right Worshipful Master was illegal was read and the Right Worshipful Master intimated that he would send that report and the complaining Brother's letter to the Provincial Grand Lodge and would communicate the result to the brethren in due course and that meanwhile he would defer taking any further notice of that Brother's irregularities. The matter was accordingly placed before the Provincial Grand Lodge and that body decided that proxies were not admissable to the ballot-box and could not be permitted in the election of a master and that their introduction in the case in question was contrary to the universal practice of the Craft, to the spirit of the constitutions, and in defiance of the Bye-laws of the lodge, and pointed out that the lodge having fallen into the error the election of the Worshipful Master could not be

regarded as valid and that the lodge should therefore proceed at the next regular meeting to a re-election of a master in due and ancient form after 7 days' notice to the members of such meeting.

The Grand Lodge at the same time guaranteed the validity of Brother Crawford's acts during the time he had acted as Worshipful Master and expressed their opinion that Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee's conduct in not obeying the summons sent to him was contumacious as it was in violation of the principles of Freemasonry which required specially the exercise of three excellences of character, "Secrecy, Fidelity, and Obedience," and that he should therefore be admonished in open lodge.

In accordance with the decision of the Grand lodge a ballot was again taken for a master at a lodge meeting held on 23rd April, and Brother Crawford was elected by a majority of votes and after his election, was saluted in due and ancient form. He then at the same meeting admonished Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee as directed by the Grand Lodge, whereupon the Secretary with the permission of the Worshipful Master read a statement, which had been prepared by Brother Merwanjee Maneckji for the occasion, and which he wanted read as containing his explanation in the matter.

In the statement Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee averred that but for the command of the Provincial Grand Lodge whose authority he was bound to obey he would have said a great deal to show that Brother Crawford, and not he, should have been reprimanded for infringing the most fundamental principle of the Order and that the Grand Lodge had been obviously (whether intentionally or not he could not say) misled as to matters of fact on a very simple question at issue between him and the Right Worshipful Master and the brethren who supported him unconstitutionally in the chair and which had been decided in his favour. He

explained that having questioned the legality of the election of the Right Worshipful Master and protested throughout against his acts he could not consistently and conscientiously attend any meeting, or any body of brethren met by his order or by any resolution passed by the lodge of which he had been illegally elected master, and that if the Grand Lodge thought otherwise all he could say was, he was sorry for it. Then as to Bye-law 38 he explained that he had not at all infringed it for the complaint was forwarded by him to the Secretary of the lodge for being transmitted by him to the Grand lodge and a copy of it was sent by him to the Provincial Grand Secretary as the Provincial Grand Lodge was then about to meet in a few days and was not to meet again for three months, and he wanted to take time by the forelock and that he had sent to the Provincial Grand Master a copy of his protest against the lodge proceedings pending the decision of the Grand Lodge which he had found it indispensable to send to the Secretary of the lodge with some observations of which he had made no secret, and that he had therefore strictly followed rule 38 in sending his complaint and protest through the lodge.

This explanation was it will be seen an attempt on Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee's part to justify his conduct and a commentary on the decision of the Grand Lodge. After it was read Right Worshipful Brother H. D. Cartwright, who was then the officiating Provincial Grand Master and was present throughout the proceedings, addressed the lodge and in so doing stated that the Provincial Grand Lodge had to set aside the election as proxies had been admitted to the ballot-box, contrary to the spirit of the ballot, to the Bye-laws of the lodge, and to the universal custom of the Craft, but at the same time they recognised that the error had been unintentionally committed and confirmed Brother Crawfords'

acts, and that in his opinion Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee's letter was unnecessary, not to use any harsher term, and that he had erred in one point as a master mason and detailed that point, and added that as the new election was in favour of Brother Crawford, Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee would remember that one of the duties of the most humble and unenlightened mason was "to acquiesce cheerfully in all rules and resolutions passed by a majority of the brethren." The incident however closed here, but it appears to have engendered want of unanimity and of good feelings in some of the brethren in the discussions during the year and also in a measure frustrated the efforts of the Right Worshipful Master in the cause of the welfare of the lodge, and damped his ardour and also to some extent contributed to the finances of the lodge being in a low state at the end of the year. The letter containing the decision of the Grand Lodge and the statement of Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee thereon will be found in Appendix H.

The propositions of Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee for modifying Bye-laws Nos. 21 and 26 were discussed during the year and that relating to Bye-law No. 26 was passed by a majority of votes, while as to the other, the first part thereof relating to the constitution of a Standing Committee for inquiring into a candidate's character, was withdrawn by Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee in consequence of his not being allowed by the Right Worshipful Master to read fully, after he had read in part, at the meeting at which it was brought up for discussion, a letter he had written to Right Worshipful Brother Barr explaining the grounds thereof, as it contained some personal allusions, and the latter portion was rejected by a majority of votes.

Prior, however, to the discussion of the proposition in open lodge a circumstance happened which shows that a high ideal of masonic rectitude prevailed at this time in

regard to the holding of private meetings outside the lodge to discuss propositions laid or to be laid before the lodge at its regular meetings on the ground that such meetings were irregular and unconstitutional and subjected the brethren attending them to suspension or expulsion, and the Brother calling them, to a charge of forming a clique in the lodge. It is recorded that at the first meeting of the year Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee proposed that the discussion of the said propositions of which he had given notice at the close of last year should be postponed owing to the lateness of the hour, as he had to offer a long explanation and stated that in the meantime and before the propositions came up for discussion he would call a private meeting of the native brethren at his bungalow and prepare them for the discussion by explaining to them his grounds therefor. Brother O'Meally and two other European brethren expressed their disapproval of the course proposed and two of them said that such a course was not only unconstitutional but was dangerous. Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee defended his view and in support thereof cited and relied upon precedents which, he said, were furnished by the practice of high functionaries like Brothers Burnes, LeGeyt, Blowers, and others, and also the Right Worshipful Master in the chair, and the Acting Secretary, Brother O'Meally, with whom, he said, he already had interviews for explaining the grounds of his propositions in question. No ruling was, however, asked for from or given by the Right Worshipful Master.

During the year Right Worshipful Brother LeLeyt resigned his office of Provincial Grand Master and an address was voted to him by the Provincial Grand Lodge and Lodge Rising Star was at the suggestion of Brother Cartwright, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, given an opportunity of joining in the address when regularly engrossed on parchment, to testify to the masonic feelings

and regard of the brethren for the retiring brother, and a draft of it prepared by the Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Blowers, was read at the lodge meeting held on 20th March. At this meeting a resolution was passed authorising the circulation amongst the brethren of a list of subscriptions to a fund started by some of the brethren for presenting a jewel to Right Worshipful Brother O'Meally for his valuable and zealous services during his mastership, the jewel to be of small value, as desired by that worthy Brother, and the surplus after purchasing the jewel to be set aside for a charitable fund. It may be mentioned that at a meeting held on 20th August the Right Worshipful Master had announced that the charitable fund of the lodge had been fairly started and that Rs. 250 were already to the credit of that fund in the Bank.

In all ten meetings were held during the year and almost all of them were largely attended. The degree work done was only one initiation, one passing and three raisings. The number of new members was seven, of whom six were affiliates and joining members and only one was an initiate. But against this increase there were six resignations. The initiate was Dossabhoy Byramjee Pesikakana. The affiliates were Brother H. D. Cartwright, who was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and also officiated as the Provincial Grand Master of Western India, Brother C. M. I. Pollock, then the Provincial Grand Senior Warden of Western India, and a Past Master of Lodge St. George, Brothers G. Craig, R. T. Yuill, Kobs, and J. G. Lawrence.

Brother Cartwright was unanimously elected as a joining member at his own desire openly expressed to the lodge at a meeting at which he was present and had stated that he felt great interest in the success and prosperity of the lodge and hoped he would be balloted for at the next meeting.

As to Brother Lawrence there was a difficulty. He was proposed for affiliation at a meeting held on 20th October and was also put to the ballot at the same meeting. Brother Lawrence was present at this meeting as a visitor. Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee protested against the immediate ballot as being in violation of the Bye-law which was passed by the lodge only on the 23rd April preceding, under which a Brother proposed for affiliation could not be balloted for on the night of his proposition. The new Bye-law had, it appears, not yet then been confirmed by the Grand Lodge. There was some discussion but Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee's protest was not allowed. The votes were taken and Brother Lawrence was declared elected by 11 votes against one and the one dissenting vote was of Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee and was recorded by him (as he said at a subsequent meeting) with the avowed object of putting in a black ball as a protest against the Brother's election under the circumstances. At the next meeting of the lodge held on 20th November, Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee after the minutes of the last meeting were read, objected to that part in which Brother Lawrence was declared a member of the lodge on the ground that the election was in opposition to a Bye-law of the lodge and could not be recognised in the proceedings. Brother Kobs argued that the new Bye-law was of no consequence as the Worshipful Master had the power of placing the Bye-laws in abeyance. The Bye-laws of the lodge did not give any such power to the Worshipful Master. Brother O'Meally argued that the Bye-law could not be relied upon by Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee, first because at the time it was passed it was not ascertained whether the votes in its favour were as two to one against it as required by Bye-law 45, and secondly because it had not yet then been recognised by the Grand Lodge. Brother Cartwright who was present at this meeting expressed his opinion

that the omission on the record as to the votes for and against the resolution by which the lodge passed the Bye-law in question could not affect its efficacy after the proceedings of the meeting at which it was passed had been confirmed by a subsequent meeting of the lodge, nor was the omission to obtain the approval of the Grand Lodge of importance, but considering that it would be hard that Brother Lawrence should suffer he recommended the confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting. The Right Worshipful Master said that the minutes objected to were true and as such should be passed and indeed that was so. They were then put to the votes and confirmed by 12 votes against six.

The Brothers resigning were W. Blowers, P. Jones, G. Kingstone, G. F. Remington, W. Crawford, and J. Jamieson, and of these the last named resigned because a candidate proposed by him was rejected on the ballot and he took the rejection as an insult to him and the Brother who had seconded his proposal. Brother LeGeyt also retired this year.

During this year also, the ballot, it was complained, was more than ever abused for 7 candidates were rejected. They were Nusserwanjee Byramjee Bhownagerwalla, Bomonjee Nowrojee, Muncherjee Ratanjee Bilimoria, Pestonjee Ratanjee Kola, Sorabjee Cawasjee Saher, J. H. Hannah, and W. A. L. McKenzie. Mr. Bhownagerwalla was proposed by Brother Jamieson and as he was not accepted Brother Jamieson resigned.

Mr. Bomonjee Nowrojee who had been duly proposed for initiation was balloted for but rejected at the meeting held on 24th November 1854 but it having been found that Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee had voted at the ballot while he was in arrears of the lodge dues, the ballot was declared to be illegal and the Secretary was directed to ask Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee for an explanation as to why he voted knowing that he was in

arrears of the lodge dues. At the meeting held on 20th January 1855 some correspondence between that Brother and the Secretary was read and ordered to be recorded and probably that was correspondence in which Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee rendered his explanation. Brother Bomonjee Nowrojee's name was withdrawn at this meeting by Brother H. P. Framjee. He was, however, again proposed (and the minutes say for affiliation) on 23rd April 1855 by Brother Evans and seconded by Brother Darby and was brought to the ballot at a meeting held on 20th May. Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee objected to his admission on the ground of his being once black-balled and thereupon Brother Evans withdrew his name though no other member of the lodge objected. The proposals and unfavorable ballot for Messrs. Billimoria, Kola, Saher and Hannah were not attended with any circumstances deserving any notice but the rejection of Brother McKenzie showed that the trouble regarding the ballot was increasing and brought matters to a crisis. That Brother belonged to Lodge Perseverance and was proposed by Brother Evans and seconded by Brother O'Meally and was balloted for at the meeting held on 20th December and with an unfavourable result. The Right Worshipful Master on the ballot being unfavourable addressed the lodge and in doing so said that Brother McKenzie who was his friend and resided under the same roof had applied for affiliation from a desire to support the lodge and was a worthy member of society and was not intimately known to any one in the lodge except himself and that under those circumstances, his good character, and the fact that he was nearly a stranger, the ballot should be tried again. This was done but the Brother was rejected by four votes.

Brother O'Meally then said that after that result there could be but little doubt that the ballot was abused and that there was no alternative but to have

the lodge closed and its charter returned, and that he would therefore move that at the next meeting the lodge should decide whether the ballot was or was not abused. The motion was supported by Brothers Jordan and Maneckjee Cursetjee.

At this meeting Mr. Muncherjee Ratanjee Bilimoria, who had been rejected on the ballot taken at the meeting on 20th December, was again proposed for initiation.

During the year the lodge had resolved strictly to enforce its Bye-laws 24 and 29 which dealt with members committing default in payment of lodge dues and had actually ordered the privileges of two brethren to be in abeyance pending liquidation of lodge dues owing by them.

Brother Dadabhoy Nowrojee, it appears, went to England shortly after his becoming Secretary and Brother O'Meally was appointed to fill the office in his place.

The following resolution was passed by the lodge by a majority at a meeting held on the 21st May 1855, *viz.*, "That the monthly subscription of joining members from the sister Lodge Perseverance be raised from Rupee one to Rupee one and annas eight, being half the regular monthly subscription." In connection with this proposition there was a little discussion between the Right Worshipful Master and Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee which is recorded in the minutes in the form of a dialogue. Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee had proposed an amendment that the joining members from Lodge Perseverance should pay the same amount as was levied by Lodge Perseverance from members of Lodge Rising Star on their joining it. He was asked whether the amendment should have retrospective or prospective effect, and he said that that question would be mooted, after the amendment was decided on the ballot as a distinct proposition, and further he wanted to know

whether the original proposition was to have a retrospective effect or prospective effect. Brother O'Meally said that it was not usual to answer a question by a question whereupon Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee said that if that was so, it was not right to put a question. The question was, however, again put to Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee from the chair, and he had to complete his amendment by inserting the amount and providing that it was to have effect as regards brethren who had already joined or might thereafter join the lodge. His amendment was negatived as also was another amendment which was proposed by Brother O'Meally providing that the future joining members should pay Rupees three per month while the members who had then already been affiliated should pay only Rupee one and annas eight per month.

On 20th September 1855, a resolution was passed by the lodge again by a majority instituting a dinner fee of Rupee one and annas eight from each member remaining for dinner. The practice up to this time must evidently have been for the lodge to defray the dinner expenses. But as the finances were very low this fee appears to have been devised by the Right Worshipful Master, at whose instance the resolution was passed as a relief to some extent.

The first part of the "Indian Freemason's Friend," presented by the Editor and favoured by Brother Lawrence, was laid before the lodge in the beginning of this year.

Brother Evans was elected and installed at the last meeting held on 20th December as the Right Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and Brother O'Meally was again appointed Secretary.

A report was rendered by the retiring master of his stewardship and is set out in the minutes of this meeting, and this appears to have been the first report ever ren-

dered by a retiring master for the minutes of any of the previous years do not record any such reports. The minutes of this meeting also record the performance for the first time since the establishment of the lodge of the installation ceremony by the Provincial Grand Master.

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## CHAPTER X.

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1856.—The minute book does not contain any minutes of meetings held during the year 1856. There is, however, a loose sheet of paper which contains the record of a meeting held on 20th February 1856, and it appears therefrom that a letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland enclosing a certificate enabling the lodge to work till St. John's Day was read.

Ballots were taken for three gentlemen, *viz* Muncherjee Ratanjee Bilimoria, Mahomed Gulam Hoosein, and Hormusjee Bomonjee Kaka, who had been proposed for admission at the last meeting held in the previous year, but the result was unfavourable in each case.

Here Brother O'Meally rose in support of his motion, "That in the opinion of the lodge the ballot was abused," but was interrupted by the Right Worshipful Master who after consulting Brothers W. H. S. Crawford and Ballingall observed that there was no use going into details on such a question, that the result of the ballot had clearly established the fact, and that with the concurrence of the Past Masters and Officers of the lodge he would close the lodge pending the decision of higher authority as to the propriety of its ever being again opened, and the lodge was then closed in solemn form. Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee was also present at this meeting. After this no meeting appears to have been held during the rest of the year nor until the middle of the next year, until when the lodge remained closed, and when fortunately it was resuscitated. After an existence of a decade and two years during which it had its good days and bad, the

climax was reached and misfortune so overtook the lodge that for a time its onward career was checked. At this time there was also a great paucity of members which was another circumstance, that in a way necessitated the closing of the lodge.

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## CHAPTER XI.

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1857.—In the year 1857 the first minutes recorded are of a meeting held on 29th July at the residence of Brother Maneckji Cursetji. It was presided over by the Right Worshipful Master Brother J. Evans, and had been called for the purpose of electing a master for the ensuing year. The Provincial Grand Master was present at this meeting.

At the commencement of the proceedings the Right Worshipful Master reminded the brethren that his term of office had long since expired, and that it had been a source of great regret and disappointment that obstacles had been thrown in his way which had prevented him from working the lodge, but that he hoped, however, that his successor would not have to encounter the same difficulties and that the lodge would in future work harmoniously. Brother Maneckji Cursetji was then unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year. The Provincial Grand Master thereupon expressed his satisfaction at the result of the ballot and in congratulating the Worshipful Master-elect expressed his hope that as they had met again all dissensions and unpleasantness that had previously prevailed would cease to exist and that the lodge would be worked with increased zeal.

Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee, in acknowledging the honour conferred upon him, said that considering the position the lodge was then in, and being second to none in his zeal in the cause of Freemasonry in general and the lodge in particular, he could not refuse to accept the mastership as he had done on a former occasion, but would do his best to render the lodge prosperous. These minutes

show the lodge had not met again since it was closed on 20th February 1856, and that the unanimity among the brethren had not been restored till the date thereof. It was reported by Brother Treasurer at this meeting that the lodge was in debt to the extent of Rupees two hundred, the greater part of which was due to Lodge Perseverance, and thereupon a proposal was made by Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee, which was seconded by Brother Hormusjee Pestonjee Framjee, that a subscription of Rupees ten each be raised among the members of the lodge as a contribution towards the liquidation of the debt.

Four more meetings were held during the year 1857, viz., on 20th August, 21st September, 20th October and 20th November.

The meeting of 20th August was specially convened for installing the Worshipful Master-elect. The Provincial Grand Master was again present at this meeting also and performed the installation ceremony. For the first time charges are found delivered to the Right Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren, by the installing Brother. They are set out *in extenso* in the minutes and were almost in the same terms as the charges appearing in the printed Ritual book at the present day. After the installation ceremony was over Brother Maneckji Cursetji delivered a short but telling address of thanks in a feeling manner and in the course of it referred to the principles on which the lodge had been originally constructed and the harmony that at first prevailed and the differences which subsequently marred and disturbed it and had the letter he had addressed on 20th January 1854 to Worshipful Brother Barr (to which reference has been already made and a copy whereof is set out in Appendix I) read and ordered it to be appended to the lodge proceedings, and after assuring the brethren that he had to the best of his ability acquitted himself of the trust reposed in him by Brothers

Dr. Burnes and LeGeyt when the lodge was established he concluded by promising that he would not suffer the harmony of the lodge to be on any account disturbed were it in his power to prevent it, nor do aught displeasing to or against the wishes of the brethren, nor countenance any measure contravening the constitutions and Bye-laws, nor in short do anything to impair the prosperity of the lodge or credit of the Order.

The first thing that Brother Maneckji Cursetji did on his assuming the government of the lodge was to revise the code of Bye-laws reviving the principles and rules on which the lodge was originally founded in consultation with the past and substitute masters and the principal officers of the lodge and these revised Bye-laws were discussed and unanimously adopted and approved of at a meeting held on 21st September 1857, subject to the confirmation of the Provincial Grand Master, and as appears from what Brother Maneckji Cursetji stated at the time, in no way materially differed from the Bye-laws of Lodge Perseverance with the exception of the rules relating to the admission and inclusion of members.

At the meeting held on 20th October an additional Bye-law was passed in the following terms:—*viz.*, "That it would be left optional with those European members on the existing rolls of this lodge who have been affiliated from Lodge Perseverance to pay either the full amount of the subscription Rupees four as now ruled, or the reduced subscription of Rupees two per month, they having joined the lodge on the understanding that they have to pay half subscription; but that this privilege be not accorded to members hereafter to be affiliated from Perseverance or any other working lodge or to the rejoining members."

During this year there was only one new member enrolled, namely Brother Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama, while three brethren resigned, namely Brothers Comp-

ton, Yuill and Carvalho. It was stated by the Right Worshipful Master, while Brother Compton's resignation was accepted, and with regret, that he was then the only remaining Brother among the original European members of the lodge.

It appears from the minutes of the meeting of 20th November that Brothers Craig, Cross, and O'Mealy had been suspended, and their names withdrawn during the suspension sometime previously, and that at that meeting they were re-enrolled as members as they had been restored by the Provincial Grand Lodge to the privileges of Masonry.

The minutes do not state the cause of suspension, but from "The History of Scottish Freemasonry in India," written by Brother I. M. Shields and printed in *The Indian Freemason and Monthly Miscellany*, Vol. XI., pp. 154-5, it appears that about the middle of the year 1856 serious disputes had arisen between Lodge Perseverance and the Provincial Grand Lodge in connection with the use of the lodge rooms permitted to Lodge St. George, the only English lodge then working in Bombay by the various Scotch bodies jointly occupying the Free Masons' Hall, and Lodge Perseverance objected to this on the ground that the use was allowed in violation of the arrangement which had been made in 1853 by the various Scotch bodies for hiring the lodge rooms. Brother G. S. Judge was at this time the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance and Brother Cartwright was the Provincial Grand Master, and the latter was charged with collusion with the Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star and with the Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter, Perseverance in the matter. Lodge Perseverance declared the convention dissolved and even objected to the Grand Lodge meeting in the lodge rooms. It is recorded that considerable acrimonious correspondence passed between the Provincial Grand Lodge and Lodge

Perseverance and the Provincial Grand Master had formally suspended Lodge Perseverance from working, and its master and officers from office, and that communications were also addressed by both bodies to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and petitions and memorials had also been presented by the Worshipful Master and office-bearers of Lodge Perseverance to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and that the latter dismissed all the petitions and re-established the authority of the Provincial Grand Master which had been called in question, and considering that the case required the exercise of wholesome severity suspended from all masonic privileges certain members of Lodge Perseverance including Brothers Craig, Cross and O'Mealy. It is also recorded in the said history that subsequently Lodge Perseverance loyally accepted the decision of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the suspended members (except Brother Judge) having made reparation were restored by the Provincial Grand Lodge to their membership and offices.

As a fact Brother Craig was present at the meeting of Lodge Rising Star held on 21st November and expressed his gladness to continue as a member of the lodge.

It may here be noted that with the exception of Brother Crawford (Substitute-Master) and Brother Jordan (Secretary) all the other office-bearers during this year were native brethren. Harmony seems to have been once again restored after the trouble the lodge had undergone in the previous years.

A resolution was passed by the lodge unanimously on 21st September, by which it resolved to pay Rs. 20 per mensem as its share for the use of the rooms of Lodge Perseverance and kit, etc.

At the last meeting held during the year Right Worshipful Brother Maneckji Cursetji was re-elected Master and Brother Jordan was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

## CHAPTER XII.

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1858.—The year 1858 was more prosperous than its predecessor and good-will and harmony were also maintained. At the very first meeting held on 8th January (St. John's Day, old style) Right Worshipful Brother Maneckji Cursetji was reinstalled in the Easter Chair in the usual form.

Nine new members were enrolled consisting of five initiates, two affiliates or joining members and two rejoining members. The initiates were Jamasji Byramji Cola, Sorabji Cawasji Saher, Meer Akbarali, Mirza Gulam-hussein and Maneckji Sorabji Ashburner. The affiliates were Brothers Short and W. H. Hazelles. The latter came from Lodge Perseverance and is stated to have been elected as a rejoining member, but the minutes of the previous years do not show that this Brother was ever proposed, balloted for or elected as a joining member any time before, though it appears that he on several occasions acted as the Tyler of the lodge. That Brother had thus during the former years made himself useful to the lodge and again offered his services in this post upon Brother Cowasji Hirjibhoy, who held the office of Tyler, resigning his membership in consequence of his having left Bombay, and he was thereupon regularly proposed, balloted for and elected a rejoining member. The Right Worshipful Master on that occasion remarked that it was not easy to fill the office of Tyler, for though one of the lowest in the grade, it was still the most important post in the lodge, and the Brother who readily filled it would not

be so much under an obligation to the lodge as the lodge must be under to him. Brother Hazelles was appointed upon the terms on which his predecessors had held the office, *viz.*, at his option of charging no fees and paying no subscription, or, as in Lodge Perseverance, charging his usual fees each night of his attendance and paying the entrance fee and subscription of Rupees four a month as an ordinary member of the lodge.

The rejoining members were Brother Mir Jafferalli (Khan Bahadur) and Ali Akbar. The first-named was elected a member on 21st January 1853 and took his first degree on 7th April following. The records between 1853 and 1858 do not show that he had withdrawn from the lodge but as he was elected as a rejoining member during this year he must have previously resigned. He was this year "passed" five years after he was made an Entered Apprentice.

There were five resignations during the year, *viz.*, of Brothers Cowasji Hirjibhoy Cola and Short as mentioned above and of Brothers W. H. S. Crawford and O'Mealy. The last named Brother was upon the acceptance of his resignation elected an honorary member of the lodge. By the end of this year the few European brethren who were still members of the lodge had one after the other nearly resigned and of those that were still borne on the rolls none was senior to Brother Maneckji Cursetji or none who could work the lodge or act as a Past Master. The lodge was now better off financially than before. It had during the year made a contribution of Rupees fifty towards the purchase of a building in Edinburgh and fitting it up as a temple for the Grand Lodge of Scotland in response to the appeal for that purpose forwarded to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India from that body, which contribution was supplemented by individual donations by the members amounting to Rupees one hundred and twenty-eight. After paying this contribu-

tion and all disbursements during the year there was still at the end of the year a credit balance of about Rupees six hundred not taking into account arrears amounting to about Rupees three hundred. This state of the finances was then considered highly satisfactory, contrasted no doubt with the deplete state of the treasury when Right Worshipful Brother Maneckji Cursetji assumed the government of the lodge eighteen months before which showed a debit balance or debt of Rupees four hundred to Rupees five hundred. The Treasurer, Brother Jordan, had in his department shown good work and was at the end of the year re-elected to the responsible office of Treasurer. At the meeting at which the Rupees fifty towards the fund started for the Grand Lodge Temple in Scotland were voted the Right Worshipful Master stated to the lodge that the position of the fraternity in the Presidency town of Bombay was very incongruous, for while the other Presidency and several of its provincial towns could boast of possessing temples of their own, the Masons at Bombay had to hold their meetings in rented houses and had done nothing towards having a masonic temple erected in Bombay, though the subject had been discussed for years and at one time a large fund had been bespoken and some brethren had also promised to give some ground. Brother O'Mealy promised then to collect all information relative to the past proceedings and to draw up a scheme or prospectus regarding the same and was requested to lay it before the Standing Committee in view of its being placed before the Provincial Grand Lodge and the other lodges working in and out of the Bombay Presidency. A visiting Brother of the name of Fogerty, who was present at that meeting, then informed the Right Worshipful Master that a princely sum of Rs. 80,000 existed in deposit with the Accountant-General, being the principal and accumulated interest for a number of years of a

bequest made by a Brother named D. Seton to the old Lodge Perseverance under the banners of England for the purpose of building a temple at Bombay and was requested to supply the Committee with the particulars of the deposit. Brother Maneckji Cursetji himself had also offered a piece of ground at Byculla for the purpose of erecting a masonic temple upon certain conditions and a Committee had been appointed by the Grand Lodge to report upon it but the Committee did not recommend the acceptance of the offer chiefly on the ground that the situation of the land was undesirable and the condition attached to the offer might cause some misunderstanding in future as to the ownership of the land. The offer was therefore refused with thanks.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji was at the last meeting of the year re-elected master of the lodge but he did not agree to accept the office again for the third time until after he was assured by the Provincial Grand Master that such acceptance would not be inconsistent with masonic laws and usages and until he could obtain the assistance of some Brother experienced in the working of the lodge in his absence and aiding him when present. He at the same time openly avowed that though personal considerations might influence him in resigning the chair, the masonic and other considerations involving the stability and permanency of the lodge would not make him shrink from the responsibility and that he would not be backward in doing his best in the interest of the lodge whether in or off its chair. This indeed was characteristic of Brother Maneckji Cursetji for not only did he strive his best for the advancement of the lodge and promotion of its welfare, whether in weal or woe, sunshine or shade, but such level best was performed in a wholehearted and sincere, and at times when occasion required in a vigorous and emphatic manner. He accordingly addressed a letter on 12th December 1858 to the Pro-

vincial Grand Master on the subject of his re-election and as he subsequently at the very first meeting held on 4th January 1859 accepted and resumed the chair during the year 1859, the reply of the Provincial Grand Master must have been in his favour. His letter to the Provincial Grand Master was read and recorded and a copy was set out in the minutes of the meeting. He appointed Brother O'Mealy as Past Master, and Brother Ballingal Substitute Master.

During this year ten meetings were held and one meeting duly convened could not be held for want of the requisite number of members required to open the lodge. The degree work done consisted of three initiations, one passing and two raisings. Only two new members joined while six members resigned the lodge. The additions were Brothers Dosabhai Ruttonji Cola and Nowroji Maneckji Wadia. The members resigning were Brothers Ballingal, Darby, Hormasji Pestonji Framji, Nowroji Nanabhai Framji, Nowroji Maneckji Langrana and Mahomed Saduck. Brother Ballingal retired as he was proceeding to England owing to ill-health. As he had taken a warm interest in the welfare of the lodge and taken an active part while governing it as Substitute Master, the lodge, while accepting his resignation, unanimously passed a resolution that a suitable address signed by the Right Worshipful Master, Wardens and Secretary be presented to him expressing the regret of the lodge at his indifferent health, and adding its grateful acknowledgment of his past services.

This year again the financial condition of the lodge showed an improvement, for at its close the funds stood at Rs. 1,197-6-8, and that in spite of the fact that several members were in arrears of payment of their dues while those who had committed default in payment were after notice struck out and their names were ordered to remain in a separate list as defaulting members. Brother Jordan

had discharged up to now his duties as Treasurer very efficiently, with hearty interest and creditably to himself and advantageously to the lodge and was therefore presented at the last meeting of the year (at which he had again consented to continue as Treasurer for the ensuing year) with the Founder's Medal.

On 25th July 1859 a resolution was passed by the lodge that its future meetings should be held generally at the residence of Brother Maneckji Cursetji when there should be no particular occasion to resort to the rooms of Lodge Perseverance, and that a letter should be addressed to the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance cordially thanking that lodge for the readiness with which they allowed the use of their rooms and kit for Rupees twenty per month and requesting him to obtain the sanction of his lodge that in future the lodge should be allowed to pay Rupees ten instead of Rupees twenty for each meeting to be held at their rooms.

This resolution was passed with a two-fold object, *viz.*, (1) to effect some saving in the lodge expenses, and (2) to suit the convenience of the native members who found it troublesome to attend at Colaba, the European brethren then attached to the lodge being but very few, and as a matter of fact some meetings during this year were held at Brother Maneckji Cursetji's residence which was kindly placed at the disposal of the lodge for that purpose.

Right Worshipful Brother LeGeyt paid the lodge a visit during this year and was received with all honours due to him as Past Provincial Grand Master and Past Master of the Lodge. A deputation of the Lodge Concord also paid a visit and was formally received at a meeting held on 29th October.

A new suit of clothing for the lodge officers from the lodge funds was voted during the year.

Right Worshipful Brother Cartwright was elected master for the ensuing year, but he declined to accept the

honour owing to his other engagements and therefore the lodge elected Brother Ardesir Jamsetji Bhajeewalla to that exalted office.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji presided as the Worshipful Master for the last time at the meeting at which Brother Cartwright was elected to succeed him, and the brethren one and all present thereat, with one voice and by acclamation passed a resolution to present to him in addition to an ordinary master's jewel and apron, something substantial, worthy of the donors and the acceptor, as might be agreeable to the latter, either in the shape of a plate, a cup, a portrait or a medal specially to be struck in his honour from the lodge funds or partly from lodge funds and partly from its members, and a Committee consisting of the Worshipful Master-elect, the Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer was appointed to give effect to the resolution in such a manner as would be acceptable to Brother Maneckji Cursetji and the meeting also resolved that an address in suitable terms engrossed on vellum conveying the resolution be presented to him signed by all the existing members and that the retired members of the lodge be requested to sign the same. This indeed was a fitting recognition of the very laudable endeavours made and the active part taken by that worthy Brother in founding the lodge, and continuing to take thereafter the most ardent interest in its progress and prosperity in every way and the masterly manner in which he had acquitted himself while in the chair which he filled for more than two years with great credit to himself and honour to the lodge. He had attended every meeting of the lodge during the period of his mastership and was assisted by a European Brother who acted as Past Master, Secretary and Treasurer and at times also acted in other offices. The harmony of the lodge was maintained and his régime was in every way a marked success, and it must have been a matter

of no small gratification at any rate to the native members of the lodge to find that one of them, who was the first to become a master of the lodge, so ably and satisfactorily discharged the duties undertaken by him.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji suitably thanked the brethren while accepting the high compliment paid to him and consented to a portrait of his being placed in the lodge, if it could be done without any large outlay, to remind them in after days of him as one who had done his humble part in assisting others in establishing this excellent institution for the special benefit of his countrymen. He did not consent to a medal being specially struck in his honour, for his services, he said, were not deserving of such reward, and as to the plate or cup he said that he could not accept the one as he was not a great eater, nor the other, for he was a teetotaller from his infancy, and either article could not be used to his liking. But he gave his consent to the portrait on the understanding that he should be allowed to present a purse to form a charitable fund appertaining to the lodge to which he said he would like to see the reserve fund of the lodge added for being devoted to masonic and charitable purposes.

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### CHAPTER XIII.

1860.—In the year 1860 again there was an increase in the number of members by seven. Brothers K. R. Cama and Nowroji Nanabhai Framji came back as rejoining members. A Brother named J. Wilkinson was elected as a joining member, while Framji Cowasjee Mehta, Jalbhai Dorabji Umrigar and Munchurji Shapurji Lungrana *alias* Munsukh were admitted as new members and an old Mason, *viz.*, Right Worshipful Brother Anderson, was elected an honorary member as he had on several occasions before assisted the lodge by working as a Past Master. But against this increase there were four resignations, *viz.*, of Brothers Cartwright, Jordan, Mir Jaffer Ali and Dinsha Dorabji Mehta. Brother Cartwright had just then resigned his post of Provincial Grand Master and delivered over charge to Right Worshipful Brother Ballingal, who was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and this resignation was communicated by him in a feeling letter to the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brothers of the lodge. The lodge recorded its sincere regret at the resignation and authorized the Right Worshipful Master to convey to that worthy Brother its grateful sense of services rendered by him to the Craft and the lodge. It also presented to him an address and Founder's Medal and enrolled him as an honorary member and contributed Rupees one hundred towards the fund which was started by Lodge Perseverance for presenting a plate to that distinguished Brother on his retirement. At the first meeting held during this year Right Worshipful Brother Ardesir Jamsetji was installed as Worshipful Master by the

Provincial Grand Master and it was announced by the latter that in future the lodge should not be opened in all degrees on the occasion of the installation of a master as had been hitherto done, as it was not necessary to do so in lodges working under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The constitutions at the present day require the lodge to be opened in all degrees. Brother Jordan was presented in open lodge with the Burne's Medal which was voted to him last year.

At a meeting held on 21st May the lodge passed a resolution on a proposition which was brought forward by Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama that the initiation fees should be reduced from Rupees two hundred to Rupees one hundred and the other fees also proportionately reduced.

Right Worshipful Brother LeGeyt died during this year, and his death was regarded as an uncommon loss, and with the object of commemorating it and keeping the memory of that revered and excellent Mason alive for ever the lodge at its meeting held on 20th July unanimously resolved that the brethren should never cease whenever they met at the festive board of the lodge to drink to his memory in solemn silence.

The financial condition of the lodge was steady, for at the close of the year the funds amounted to Rs. 1,187-6-0.

Brother Bhajeewalla was re-elected Master for the ensuing year by a majority of votes and was duly re-installed at the last meeting of the year.

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1861.—The year 1861 passed off quietly. Thirteen lodge meetings and seven Standing Committee meetings were held. Eleven members were added to the roll, of whom one was a rejoining member, namely, Brother Moosa Khan. Five were joining members, *viz.*, Brother J. Slynne, J. H. Irvine, Henry Bowman, H. Hodgart and A. Faulkner, and the remaining five were initiates, namely, Khaja Moohtas

Shah, Sorabji Jijibhai Moogana, Burjurji Sorabji Ashburner, Dossabhai Framji Karaka and Framji Bomanji. Of these Brothers Moosa Khan and Khaja Moohtas Shah and Faulkner resigned within a few months. Brother Wilkinson also resigned. Brother Khaja Moohtas Shah took only two degrees and as he did not understand English the proceedings were interpreted to him in Persian. Brother Hodgart had just then passed the chair of Lodge Perseverance and was an old and experienced Mason and Brother Irvine had, it is stated, rendered many a good service before to the lodge and both were elected by acclamation without being balloted for. Brother Faulkner was also similarly elected. There were three initiations and three passings and two raisings during the year. The finances stood at the end of the year at Rs. 1,604-15-2, and which sum included Rs. 636-1-3<sup>4</sup>, being the cost of the Founder's Medals which the lodge had ordered out for members who would like to purchase them and were then on hand. A resolution was passed at the beginning of this year that the *Freemason's Quarterly Magazine* should be subscribed for by the lodge and circulated among the members.

Among the visiting brethren this year were brethren from Lion and Lamb No. 227 E. C., St. Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh, Derby Lodge No. 102 and Lodge Felix No. 355. A donation of Rupees fifty was also made in this year to the National Wallace Monument.

Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama was elected Worshipful Master for the next year by a majority of votes and he was duly installed by the Provincial Grand Master.

1862.—The year of office of this worthy Brother was full of events and work and was prosperous in all ways. He began his administration in a truly masonic spirit and showed by his work and the manner in which he did

it that he was a strong disciplinarian who had laid down for the guidance of himself and the lodge an unbending rule of undeviating obedience to and observance of the Bye-laws of the lodge and the fundamental principles on which the lodge was established, and strove in every respect to maintain the harmony and integrity of the lodge. He was unerring in his decisions, which he always gave unhesitatingly and enforced strictly, but at times the rigour of his action was tempered with leniency engendered only by a desire to do what was best in the interest of the lodge and tended to promote the diffusion of the genuine tenets of the Order. He showed a firm grasp of all problems and questions that came up before either the lodge or the Standing Committee and had on all occasions the courage of his convictions, and if one could truly say of a Brother, he could certainly so say of this distinguished Brother, that he was the second man and mason after Brother Maneckji Cursetji who, walking in the path of masonic rectitude and measuring his steps on sure and firm ground and guiding the thoughts of himself and the brethren in general, whose happiness was his great design to promote, within the very compass of propriety held himself forth and justly proved by his fair and square conduct a worthy pattern for imitation, and if proof were wanted in support of all this it was furnished by the fact that the brethren over whom he ruled for twelve months re-elected him the Worshipful Master for the succeeding year.

He was present at every meeting both of the lodge and the Standing Committee and at all the meetings useful work was done. In all twenty meetings of the general body were held, of which eight were emergent and the remaining twelve were regular meetings. The Standing Committee meetings numbered fourteen. There were ten initiations, five passings and four raisings, and every Brother initiated, passed or raised had invariably the

benefit of a lecture on the tracing board appertaining to the degree given to him by the Worshipful Master. Also at meetings where no degree work was done the Right Worshipful Master delivered lectures on the tracing boards. Numerically and financially there was a substantial increase. Twenty-one members were enrolled, of whom four were rejoining brethren, nine initiates, six affiliates and two honorary members.

The rejoining Brethren were brothers Dinsha Dorabji Mehta, Hormusji Pestonji Framji, Nowroji Maneckji Lungrana and Munshi Akbar Ali Khan. The initiates were Pestonji Hormusji Cama, Sorabji Pestonji Framji, Mirza Mahomad Ali Khan (Consul-General of the Persian Government), Sorabji Shapurji Bengali, Ardesir Framji Moos, Dr. Rustomji Cowasji Bahadurji, Jehangir Gustadji, Cumroodin Tyabji (Solicitor), Cursetji Jehangir Liccimna *alias* Tarachand. The affiliates were Brothers Robert R. Balmore and Alexander F. Angus both of Lodge Perseverance, Muncherji Frommurze of Lodge Industry and Perseverance, No. 126 E. C., Sorabji Frommurze of Lodge Star of Burmah No. 897 E. C., Merwanji Bomanji of Lodge Neptune No. 22 of London, and Solomon David of Northern Lodge of China No. 832. The honorary members were Brothers Meding of Lodge Sincère and Amity of Paris, also a representative of the Grand Lodge of Saxony in the Grand Orient of France, and Right Worshipful Brother Lord Leigh, the Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire. The honorary membership was conferred on Brother Meding in recognition of his having shown every brotherly solicitation and kindness to Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama while he was temporarily residing in Paris in 1859, and was a perfect stranger to him and had no claims on him except that of his being one of the mystic tie.

Brother Lord Leigh was made an honorary member in appreciation of the most marked attention and frater-

nal consideration with which Brother Maneckji Cursetji was received by his Grand Lodge while that Brother visited Warwickshire during this year. Four members resigned during the year, *viz.*, Brothers Bhajeewalla, S. C. Sayer, Angus and Balmore. The address and apron and jewel which had been voted to Brother Maneckji Cursetji on 19th December 1859 had for some reason or other not been presented to him yet. He was going to Europe on a six months' leave to seek rest and recreation from official work (for he was at and for some years before this time a judge of the Bombay Small Causes Court) and for the education of his children and occasion was therefore taken to present the address before his departure and this was done at an emergent meeting held on 25th April which was largely attended by almost all the members and a large number of visiting brethren. A copy of the address as also a copy of the reply thereto by Brother Maneckji Cursetji are set out in Appendix J. The address recounted the valuable services which had been rendered by the worthy Brother to the Craft and the lodge and said that he was a perfect ashlar whereupon to try and adjust the masonic opinions and actions of the brethren and had been a sincere friend of the lodge as much in the days of its adversity as in those of its prosperity.

The apron and jewel had not arrived from England and the portrait was also still coming from China and therefore the former could not be presented or the latter hung up in the lodge rooms. Brother Maneckji Cursetji replied in suitable terms and referred to the facts relating to the foundation of the lodge and his humble efforts in that behalf and assured the brethren that his connection with the lodge would never be severed and said that he would place in the hands of the Secretary a sum equivalent to the amount spent by the lodge on his portrait to form a nucleus fund for charitable purposes, and in order that the lodge funds might not suffer, and the

lodge subsequently did get from him a donation of Rupees two hundred and fifty. He then also proposed that the Burne's Medal should be presented to the Grand Master of England, Brother George Oliver, the Historian of the Craft, and to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge La Glorie de l'Univers de Paris in which he first saw the light of Freemasonry. The Right Worshipful Master doubted whether such a proposition could be made at an emergent meeting and said that at the next meeting he would see that it was made and if carried that he would forward the medals to him in England for presentation, and at the next regular meeting resolutions were passed for presenting the medals to those distinguished Masons and also to the Grand Master of French Masons, and to a Brother named T. P. Sirget, Worshipful Master of Lodge Sincère and Amity, who got the medal in recognition of the brotherly regards he had shown to the Right Worshipful Master while in Paris in 1859.

Brother Oliver had, it appears, taken a notice of the lodge in very flattering terms in his new edition of Preston just then published.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji was then duly commissioned to present the medals in person to the distinguished brethren and he executed the commission by making the presentation to Brother Sirget in person and to the others by letters as he could not see them. The presentation was acknowledged by letters which were handed by Brother Maneckji Cursetji to the lodge on his return to Bombay, and were read at the meeting held on 20th November and copied in the minutes thereof and are in very touching and cordial terms. (See Appendix K.) Brother Maneckji Cursetji was present at this meeting and was thanked for the excellent manner in which the commission had been carried out by him and he informed the lodge that he had been received by the Grand Lodge of Warwickshire and particularly by its Grand Master, Lord Leigh, with marked

attention and fraternal regards, whereupon Lord Leigh was upon his proposition elected an honorary member and was voted the Burne's Medal.

The revision of the Bye-laws of the lodge was the first thing taken in hand by Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama at the commencement of his office. An emergent meeting was called by him for the purpose and the Bye-laws were discussed thereat and a number of modifications and alterations were proposed for consideration at the subsequent regular meeting, and one of them was to raise the standard of fees for the three degrees and for affiliation by exactly doubling them and reducing the rejoining fee from Rupees fifteen to ten and raising the fees of Rupees forty-five and fifty-five for passing and raising a Brother initiated in another lodge to Rupees fifty-five and Rupees seventy-five respectively. At the next regular meeting the revised Bye-laws were discussed and passed except the one relating to the alteration in the fees. At a subsequent meeting held on 21st April, 1862, it was resolved that the Bye-laws should be printed and a sketch of the history of the Lodge be added to it and the Right Worshipful Master undertook to compile it and to see the same go through the press. The year went by but as the Worshipful Master stated while rendering an account of his stewardship, the Bye-laws were not printed because the translation thereof was not ready and he, the Right Worshipful Master, could not compile the sketch because he found the old papers in a mess, all in a heap, and not arranged properly though he had; he said, taken down notes and references which he intended to give to the next coming master for being expanded. Revision of the Bye-laws was accompanied by a rigid observance of them and here the presiding officer was a task-master though strict, yet just. The members had become somewhat indifferrent as to regular attendance and did not send excuses for their non-attendance at Lodge-

Meetings as required by the Bye-laws. The first thing, therefore, that the Master did, was to have a *N. B.* added at foot of the summons for the very first meeting of the year calling the attention of the brethren to the rule which required them to send an excuse for absence either in writing or verbal. This had not the desired effect for still some members did not send excuses and the master thereupon intimated in open lodge that such brethren would be dealt with as the Bye-laws provided, as he was determined to govern the lodge strictly in conformity with the intention thereof. Matters improved, for the attendances became more regular than before and excuses came either in writing or through members attending; but still some members were refractory. The majority of the brethren then proposed that a fine not exceeding Rupees five should be imposed while a few thought it would be difficult to exact fines and by such a hard step the lodge might lose some of its members. Ultimately all agreed that a fine should be imposed on members absenting themselves without sending excuses but after previous notice and default on their part for one month in attending thereto.

The Right Worshipful Master still hoped that the discussion and resolution when brought to the notice of the members would be quite sufficient and probably obviate the necessity of inflicting fines but unfortunately his hope was not realised and later on he had to inflict a fine of one rupee on brethren, European and Native alike, and the fines were in all cases paid, and in the case of some brethren who subsequently rendered satisfactory explanations were also kindly remitted. The Right Worshipful Master's view was that every master undertook a solemn obligation to observe the Bye-laws and was bound to render and enforce obedience to them so long as they existed and remained in force. One Brother wrote explaining his absence but at the same

time tendered his resignation because he was fined. The Right Worshipful Master accepted the explanation and said that the fine if recovered should be refunded but at the same time said that though the member had shown very little attachment to the lodge by tendering his resignation and the lodge would lose very little by his withdrawal (for he had attended a meeting only once in three years); yet he thought he would be encouraging members to resign at trifles if he allowed that resignation to be accepted and made a precedent of and desired that member to reconsider the resignation which was characterised as being due to his imperfect acquaintance with the ancient masonic charges which required a Mason at all times to belong to some lodge or other; and the resignation was not accepted.

Another Brother who was fined wrote two letters which it appears contained matter, which if placed before the lodge, would have induced it to decide against the Brother and probably to expel him from the lodge, but the Right Worshipful Master who was supported in his views by Brother Maneckji Cursetji did not allow the letters to be read in open lodge though one Brother wanted to know what they contained and gave that Brother a week to withdraw the letters with a distinct intimation that if he failed to do so they would be read in open lodge as a matter of course and dealt with in the proper way, and stated to the lodge that he had made personal efforts in bringing round the erring Brother to the right path of respect, duty and allegiance towards the lodge, and his efforts did prove effectual in the end, for that Brother paid the fine imposed on him with a letter submitting to the Bye-laws and explaining the cause of his absence for which he was fined. The letter was read and the explanation accepted at the meeting at which Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama relinquished his office and he openly said that he retired from the chair quite content with all brethren, without exception.

The Bye-laws were also strictly enforced in the matter of fees and admission of members.

Before his time all affiliates had been somehow or other charged only Rupees two per month contrary to the Bye-laws and he therefore announced at the very second meeting of the year that he would in confirmity with the Bye-laws enforce in regard to them the monthly subscription of Rupees four without any distinction.

As regards admission of new members his view was that the lodge should not be sorry if ninety-nine good men out of hundred men were rejected in order that even one bad person might not by chance be admitted into the Craft and his procedure was to obtain from a proposer the name of his candidate then to submit the name to the senior office-bearers and to make due enquiry as minutely as he could into the social status and personal character of the candidate, and if approved of, then to allow him to be proposed in open lodge. According to the Bye-laws the proposition would again go before the Standing Committee for report and here was another opportunity of approving or rejecting a candidate, according to the result of further inquiries or upon such information as might then be available. This in a great measure precluded the chances of a candidate being black-balled and ensured the admission of good men and true.

An instance occurred which showed how strict the Right Worshipful Master was and also his sense of justice. A candidate who had been favourably reported upon by the Standing Committee was to be balloted for at a meeting. That very day the Right Worshipful Master had received some information prejudicially affecting his character and he therefore proposed that the ballot should be postponed pending further inquiries which he and others would make, as that would better serve the interest of the candidate than taking the ballot immediately, and after some discussion the proposer and

seconder agreed to the postponement. In the meantime the Right Worshipful Master made further inquiries and found that the information given to him was not correct. The candidate was brought up for ballot again and before it was taken the Worshipful Master said his inquiries had resulted favourably to the candidate. The ballot was taken and there were two black-balls. It was therefore suggested that there was some mistake and the ballot should be taken again. The Right Worshipful Master rose equal to the occasion and repeated his own belief that the candidate was worthy of being admitted and ordered a second ballot but reminded the brethren at the same time that it was their imperative duty to exclude improper and unworthy men and to reject the candidate if they suspected aught against him. The second ballot was quite clear and the candidate was duly elected and he in course of time had an opportunity of ruling the lodge and serving it in more ways than one and to its great advantage. He has since settled his claim of mortality and has left his name imperishable in the list of the Past Masters of this lodge. He was Brother Jehangir Gustadji.

Brother K. R. Cama also wanted the brethren to be efficient in their work and in candidates for the three degrees he exacted a strict examination before advancing them from one degree to another. With that view he used to hold private meetings regularly every week with the principal office-bearers at which Entered Apprentices were invited to receive instruction. He was in the first place not anxious to increase the number indiscriminately and in the second place not to confer degrees without satisfying himself that a Brother really deserved advancement. The proceedings of some lodge meetings were also interpreted in Persian and Gujarati for the edification of those members who understood English imperfectly.

The finances of the lodge were in a prosperous condition and the lodge therefore ordered out at the initiative of Brother Cama a complete set of masonic books of Brother Dr. Oliver, costing about Rupees three hundred, to form a lodge library for the use of the members who were to have the privilege of using one set of books each time, which they were not to retain for more than a week. Some of these books form a part of the present library of the lodge.

At the close of the year the funds were Rupees 1504-1-6 including Rupees 498-4-0 to the credit of the Charity Fund which now under the Bye-laws was made up of one-fourth of the subscriptions. A jewel and an address had been voted to the Immediate Past Master but some unpleasant circumstances having come to the knowledge of Brother Cama, and the Immediate Past Master though called upon to render an explanation having failed to do so they were withheld.

A question had arisen as to whether the minutes of a regular meeting could be legally confirmed at a subsequent emergent meeting and after discussion it was decided by a ruling of the Worshipful Master that only such portion of the minutes could be confirmed as related to the subject of the emergent meeting.

At a private meeting of a few brethren about Rupees 40,000 were subscribed this year on the suggestion of Brother Cama for building a Masonic Hall for the lodge. Having had subsequently to leave Bombay he handed the list to the next master with a request to follow up the matter and to mature the plan, but nothing further was done.

A plan and estimate of a Masonic Hall had been submitted to the lodge for its views by Lodge Perseverance in August, 1861, and the Lodge had therefore resolved that the matter should be referred to a Committee consisting of the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of all lodges working in Bombay.

A Brother was not allowed to be raised during this year as it appears he had said something derogatory to the lodge to some gentlemen, non-Masons, and though called upon to withdraw his aspersions had declined to do so.

Brother K. R. Cama was re-elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by a large majority of votes. He was reluctant to accept the honour but on being earnestly asked to do so did not press his refusal. Circumstances however soon changed. He had to leave Bombay on a tour in India and he therefore called an emergent meeting for the purpose of electing a new master. Here again a question arose as to whether a master could be elected at an emergent meeting, and Brother Cama ruled that that could be done and in that opinion the lodge concurred. Brother M. M. Sethna was elected master by a magority of votes and was duly installed at the last meeting of the year held on 20th December, 1862, by the retiring master., who took that occasion also to impress on the installed Worshipful Master and the brethren his views about governing a lodge and enforcing discipline among the members and promised the brethren that he would in future always work and assist them to the best of his ability, a promise which it must be admitted he most amply fulfilled till his death in 1909. He was highly applauded by the brethren and voted a Past Master's Jewel and Apron and he in his turn presented the large folio vol. of the Zend Avesta by Professor Westergard on which have been obligated the Parsi brethren of the lodge up to the present time.

At this meeting the lodge recorded its deepest regret at the death of Rev. Brother Dr. Burnes, which was announced by Brother Maneckji Cursetji who also suggested that his name should be coupled in solemn silence at the festive board with that of the late Right Worshipful Brother P. W. LeGeyt.

## CHAPTER XIV.

1863—As predicted by the Right Worshipful Brother Cama, his successor was not strict in the enforcement of discipline and the result of his laxity was that the members were again irregular in their attendance at lodge meetings.

During his regime there was not a single resignation while the addition to the roll of members was eight of which three were rejoining members, *viz.*, Brothers D. B. Pesikakana, Dadabhai Nowroji and J. B. Kola ;—four were initiates, namely, Messrs. Dossabhai Hormusji Cama, Jijibhai Jehangir Lam, Muncherji Cowasji Murzaban and Framji Nusserwanji Sett, and one was an honorary member.

Brother M. C. Murzaban came with a letter of recommendation on Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama from Brother J. D. Sharman the Worshipful Master of Lodge St. Andrews in the East which was placed before the lodge, whereupon and upon the Right Worshipful Master's statement that he was on enquiry found worthy of being admitted into the fraternity he was formally proposed thereafter and duly elected. He at present is the oldest subscribing member of this lodge and will complete his 50 years of masonic life on the 20th of August, 1913.

The honorary member was Right Worshipful Brother Richard Bolton Barton, who had just then become Provincial Grand Master of Western India on Brother Ballingal relinquishing the office of Officiating Provincial Grand Master of Western India which he had filled from

1861. That Brother attended thereafter several Meetings of the lodge and took a keen interest in its affairs and as will be seen later on received special recognition from the lodge.

The degree work done during the year consisted of three initiations, four passings and three raisings.

Lodge Truth had then been recently consecrated and Brother Maneckji Cursetji had the honour of being elected an honorary member thereof and he thought that the Lodge Rising Star was bound to reciprocate the compliment on personal as well as masonic grounds and with that view proposed two brethren of eminence and standing and well-skilled in the Craft who were Past Provincial Grand Masters of Bengal and also members of Lodge Perseverance as honorary members, namely Brothers Judge and Wickham as, though those brethren, under the original compact with Lodge Perseverance (which at this date was still observed by Lodge Rising Star in spite of Lodge Perseverance having rescinded it evidently under an impression that its numbers who then mustered about eighty would inconvenience them) were entitled to attend the meetings of the lodge as extra members, felt a delicacy, which was but quite natural, to attend too often. The Master supported the proposition as did also another member. The feeling was however not unanimous, whereupon the proposition was abandoned and Brother Maneckji Cursetji left the meeting as he took their rejection as an insult. It appears that Brother Judge was proposed without his consent and in order therefore that his high position in masonry might not suffer by reason of the mistake of the Brother who had made the proposition a member proposed at a following meeting that the minutes regarding the election should be expunged from the records. A discussion ensued but the minutes were confirmed as the lodge was not in fault for having voted and the

matter was one which required adjustment between Brothers Judge and Maneckji Cursetji. Brother Judge coming to know of his rejection also wrote to the master contending that the proposition having been made without his consent or knowledge, the voting on it was null and void and protesting against any record of the transaction being entered in the minutes. Correspondence also passed between him and Brother Maneckji Cursetji on the subject, but all the same the lodge did not accede to the request, but the correspondence was ordered to be recorded to do justice to Brother Judge in the matter. (See Appendix L.) Brother Judge's letter to Brother Maneckji Cursetji *inter alia* referred to the unpleasant fact that at that time there was wholesale black-balling in Lodge Perseverance of members of Lodge Rising Star wishing to join it and said that probably Lodge Rising Star black-balled him out of a sheer desire to take revenge. But the record of the transaction shows that that was not the reason and the matter was not one of revenge but the two brethren were not accepted for other reasons which were purely personal to them. The members did not allow themselves to be influenced by the circumstance of the high masonic position of the brethren proposed or the fact of the proposer being no other than the greatest friend of the lodge and the probability of his being offended at the rejection of his proposition, which as a fact happened, but were guided solely by the desire to avoid the least possibility of the harmony and peace of the lodge being disturbed by the admission of brethren against whom they had an objection.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji shortly thereafter lost his eldest son Mr. Hiraji. The Worshipful Master called a lodge of emergency to specially express their sympathy in the sad bereavement. Some of the brethren thought that was uncalled for and entirely without precedent but Brother K. R. Cama in supporting the master's action

asserted that the master had a perfect right to call such an emergent meeting and that the brethren were bound on any occasion arising to show to the world by their actions that they were not Masons in name only but were Masons in spirit and reality who rejoiced with a Brother in his joys and mourned with him in his sorrows and that it did not follow, as some brethren thought, that because such a meeting was held in one case that it should necessarily be held in another, but that each case stood upon its own circumstances and a Brother who had done service in a marked manner was entitled to receive sympathy at their hands in the same manner. He quoted the instance of a lodge in France to which he was affiliated in which a Brother's wife being sick during labour a deputation was actually sent from the lodge to make inquiries after her health; and when she was safely delivered the brethren testified their joy by giving a battery of salute. The brethren assembled then unanimously passed a resolution recording their deep regret and sorrow at the lamentable death and offering Brother Maneckji Cursetji their heartfelt condolence and sympathy. Only a few days before that the lodge had passed a resolution at a regular meeting condoling with Brother K. R. Cama in his bereavement caused by the death of his wife.

During the year Brother J. C. Tarachand who was travelling on the continent, visited Lodge Anglais No. 204 of Bourdeaux at a special Convocation called in his honour and was received with marked attention, and that lodge in token of their love for Lodge Rising Star presented a medal to him and also handed another and a list of its members to Brother Tarachand to be presented to the lodge. Brother Tarachand in advance of his return sent both the medal and the list to the lodge through Brother Dadabhoy Nowroji who was then in England, and on his return carried out his mission by

making a presentation of the Medal to the Worshipful Master in open lodge assembled and the lodge passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Lodge Anglais for the honour and fraternal affection shown by them.

Brother Tarachand had also been treated very kindly by Viscount de Brons of Bordeaux and Lodge Mareschal Magiria at Paris.

The Masonic Temple question was again mooted this year, and discussed at the lodge meeting held on 20th August. The representatives of all the English lodges it appears had decided at a meeting that a Masonic Temple should be built for the use of all bodies whether under the English, Scotch or Irish Banner and appointed a deputation to wait on His Excellency the Governor of Bombay requesting him to become the Patron of the Order in Bombay and his co-operation in the selection of a site for the Temple and a further meeting was to be held on 28th August. Brother King, the Grand Secretary, who was present at the meeting referred to the subject and asked the lodge to depute a representative at the said meeting.

It appears that another scheme had also been started in which the Worshipful Master had been invited to join and the project of Brother Cama had been allowed by him to drop and the Worshipful Master said it was difficult to decide what to do.

Brother Cama while appreciating the idea and emphasising the common desire of all Masons to have a Masonic Hall expressed his opinion that to cut the gordian knot it would after all be better for the lodge to build a hall of its own which could be used by all other masonic bodies under any banner on payment of a small rent, as he believed that the members who had last year at his initiative subscribed Rupees forty thousand could if they so chose consummate the project by employing their money or lands in the erection of a Temple which after all would be a paying investment. Brother Cama was how-

ever deputed to attend the meeting to see what was best to be done under the circumstances.

Two of the visiting brethren this year hailed from Lodge Dido Paix and Lodge St. David, Dundee.

Brother Muncherji Cowasji Lungrana presented to the lodge this year a copy of his valuable work "The Ganj Nameh."

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## CHAPTER XV.

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1864.—Worshipful Brother Nowroji Nanabboy Framji was the Worshipful Master in 1864 and for the first time now all the offices were captured by the native brethren and all of them, Parsis.

13 lodge meetings and 8 standing committee meetings were held and the degree work was two initiations, 4 passings and 5 raisings. No member left the fold but on the contrary two returned to it, namely, Brothers Dadabhoy Nowroji and Maneckji Limji Anteria. The numerical strength was further increased by the admission of three initiates, namely, Nowroji Furdoonji, Jehangir Merwanji Pleader and Jamsetji Furdoonji Unwalla, and one affiliate, *viz*, Brother Cursetji Frommruze hailing from Lodge Zetland in the East No. 748 Singapore.

Brother J. M. Pleader had been rejected on two successive ballots in the preceding year and his case was then considered very unfortunate by several members, notably the Right Worshipful Master and Brother A. F. Moos who severely deprecated the practice of blackballing deserving candidates like Brother Pleader who were respectable, useful and able men. The lodge must no doubt have thought over the matter and considered it but right to receive Brother Pleader who as a fact proved to be a zealous, able and useful working member.

Brother Cama was presented with a Past Master's jewel and appointed the first depute Master of the lodge, a post which he filled successfully for some years with great energy. He said on this occasion that his great

ambition was and would be to see that the lodge attained perfection under native office-bearers.

Brother A. F. Moos was presented with the Founder's medal in recognition of the trouble taken by him in translating the Bye-laws and getting them printed. There are at present in the lodge library several printed copies of these Bye-laws with their Gujrati translation.

Brother Cowasji Sorabji Patel requested the lodge to be allowed to dedicate to it a work he had written on "Chronology" but the dedication was refused with thanks on the ground that the work did not relate to a masonic subject.

"Masonic Manual" presented by a Brother named Hains was accepted with thanks and the lodge became a subscriber to the *Scottish Freemasons' Magazine* from the very beginning of that Journal and the proceedings of the lodge, it was resolved, should after approval thereof by the Grand Secretary be furnished to the Magazine.

His Grace Augustus Frederick John, the Duke of Athole, K. T., the Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the beloved and illustrious head of the Craft at the time, had just then passed away into eternity and the lodge feeling itself bound by every motive of duty and gratitude passed a resolution at its meeting held on 20th February recording the melancholy event with deep regret and paid funeral honours to the deceased in solemn silence.

Lodge Perseverance asked this year for an increased rent for the use of the lodge rooms at Colaba and it was agreed to.

It was announced that the necessary land for the erection of a Masonic Temple had been agreed to be purchased and that the Temple would be called "The Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall" after the illustrious grandfather of the Worshipful Master who though not

initiated into the Craft was by his acts and deeds a Mason.

The financial condition of the lodge was now again bad. It was on the wrong side but it must be said that the lodge had made substantial donations in charity during the year which must have in a degree contributed to this fall. The Worshipful Master in retiring from the chair made a donation of Rupees two hundred and had also previously advanced a loan of Rupees five hundred to defray the current expenditure.

In order to meet the increased expenditure the monthly subscription was raised from Rupees four to Rupees five and all the other fees were doubled.

1865.— Brother D. R. Kola was the Worshipful Master in the year 1865. During his regime the lodge became a subscriber to the *Indian Journal of Freemasonry* and the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror* published in London and the members continued to take an interest in masonic journals and were it seems making use of the lodge library.

Four Brothers were affiliated, namely, Brothers F. L. Brown, H. H. Avron, Dadabhai Dinsha Ghandhi, and Henry Prescott. There was only one initiate and he was the late Mr. Framji Rustomji Vicaji, Barrister-at-Law, who as is well known passed away from this mortal world in July 1908. Brother Burjorji Sorabji Ashburner rejoined while Brother J. H. Irvine resigned. Brother Prescott presented to the lodge a picture of Brother Dr. Oliver which was thankfully accepted.

The late eminent high priest of the Deccan, Dastur Hoshangji Jamaspji, was proposed this year for initiation by Brother K. R. Cama but as in those days there was still in the native mind a prejudice against Freemasonry generally and the orthodox section of the Parsi community had a belief that it had a great affinity to Christianity, the proposal was allowed to stand over for

two or three months in order to allow the news to spread and to enable the learned Dastur to gauge the views of his constituents by the subject being fully ventilated and then to decide finally whether he would join the Order or not. Subsequently however Brother Cama withdrew his proposition but the fact that the eminent Dastur had allowed it to be made was indeed a great refutation in itself of the bigoted view taken against the noble institution of Freemasonry.

In all there were 13 lodge meetings and 10 standing committee meetings. There were two initiations three passings and three raisings. The finances went however from bad to worse and subscriptions had to be raised from amongst the members to pay off debts and to leave a small surplus in hand. But at the same time it appears the lodge had all along continued to make charitable donations and did not alter the Bye-laws under which one-fourth of the subscriptions went to the charity fund though some of the members wanted the proportion still further reduced.

All Past Masters of the lodge were elected by Lodge Concord of instruction as its honorary members during this year.

The Bye-laws of the lodge were amended at a lodge meeting held on 20th November and *inter alia* those relating to the extra-membership granted to members of other lodges were rescinded, so that from this time forward the members of other lodges were admitted as affiliates upon the same terms as the intrants. The rule relating to honorary membership was also now altered by providing that a proposition for the same should be decided by ballot and not by show of hands as before and the rule relating to the holding of anniversary meetings was amended by providing that they should be held on 15th December in each year, that being the anniversary day. The present rules in these matters are to the same

effect. The offices of Jeweller, Architect, Bearer of the Sacred Volume, and Organist were added for the first time to the list of office-bearers.

The proposals made by Brother Nowroji Nanabhai Framji in the previous year regarding the Masonic Hall and the suggestions of Brother K. R. Cama in connection therewith were further considered on the same being revised by Brother K. R. Cama and a prospectus was issued to and circulated amongst the members for raising a capital of Rs. 1,25,000 divided into 250 shares of Rs. 500 each and announcing that Brother N. N. Framji had expressed his resolution to subscribe one hundred shares in consideration of the Hall being named after his revered Grandfather Mr. Framji Cowasji and requesting the brethren to take up the remaining 150 shares and providing that the net income to be derived from rent, fees, etc, from the use of the building for masonic and other purposes would be divided among the shareholders.

The lodge had by this time had the honour of having its members nominated to posts in the Provincial Grand Lodge. Brother K. R. Cama was the Provincial Grand Secretary and Brother C. N. Cama was the Honorary Provincial Grand Treasurer. Brother C. N. Cama had presented the clothing and jewels of the Provincial Grand Lodge office-bearers and they were worn by them for the first time on 7th January 1865.

The proceedings of the lodge were published during the year in the *Masonic Record* after being approved by the Provincial Grand Secretary.

At a Grand Lodge communication held on 29th June 1865 Brother Barton in his address as Provincial Grand Master referred to the practice which had grown up of not exercising ordinary caution in admitting candidates for initiation and to cases of Masons brought up for trial before him as a Magistrate and in doing so said that he did

not in the least mean to insinuate against any particular lodge as permitting the objectionable practice but would instance, as an example of what should be done, the Lodge Rising Star where the strictest scrutiny was made before a candidate was proposed or initiated.

Brother Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama offered this year to present to the lodge the necessary clothing of office-bearers and members with a set of jewels in silver and this munificent offer was accepted with a request to that Brother to allow the inscription "Presented to Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 by Brother C. N. Camaji" being engraved if not on all the jewels at least on those of the Master and Wardens. That worthy Brother at first objected but ultimately reluctantly assented to the request and the clothing and jewels were in due course ordered out from England. The clothing at that time included sashes for the office-bearers.

Bro Nowroji Nanabh i Framji was selected Worshipful Master for the next year by a majority of votes but he declined to accept the office and thereupon the brethren proceeded to a fresh election at which Brothers K. R. Cama and C. J. Tarachand got an equal number of votes. Brother Cama then said that the Past Masters of the lodge were its pillars and the greater the number of them was the better the strength of the lodge, and it was not therefore advisable to elect a Past Master. The ballot had therefore to be gone over again and resulted in a majority of votes for Brother Tarachand who was subsequently duly installed by the Provincial Grand Master. At the end of the year there were forty-two subscribing members.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

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1866.—The year 1866 was not very eventful, but it was full of work, *viz*, seven initiations, five passings and four raisings. It also attracted fifteen new members of whom nine were initiates and six affiliates.

The initiates were Messrs. Darasha Ratanji Chichgar (who has since proved himself an ardent and useful member), Cursetji Rustomji Sethna (the father of our present members, Right Worshipful Brothers P. C. Sethna and D. C. Sethna), Jamsetji Dhanjibhai Wadia, Dr. Rustomji Jamsetji Nadirshaw, Hormusji Dadabhai (then a pleader and later on a Judge of the Bombay Small Causes Court), Dr. Cursetji Framji Khory, Pestanji Dajibhai, Rustomji Sorabji Punegar and Sorabji Palanji.

Brother Dr. Nadirshaw entered the lodge under circumstances similar to those which had happened in the case of Brother Jehangir Merwanji Pleader. He had been disapproved at two consecutive ballots taken when he was previously proposed eleven months before this, and his disapproval had been the occasion of an animated animadversion by some members on the conduct of the brethren who had exercised their right of veto.

The affiliates were Brothers Framji Dorabji Bahadurji, Nowroji Dajibhai Unvalla and Hormusji Nowroji Saklatwala, all hailing from Lodge Zetland of Hongkong, China, No. 525 E. C., Brother Edulji Cowasji Jussawalla, an initiate of Lodge Morning Star of Lucknow No. 552, Brother Rustomji Hirjibhai Wadia hailing from Lodge Mountbank No. 286 of the United States of America, and Brother Rustomji Pestonji Soorty of Lodge Gresham

No. 869 E. C., Brother Jussawalla subsequently took his second and third degrees in the lodge.

Brothers Aaron, Prescott, F. L. Brown, Cursetji Frommurze, Muncherji Frommurze, Hodgart, A. M. Gubbay, and Jalbhai Dorabji Umrigar resigned. Brothers Bowman's and Solomon David's names were struck out for default in payment of lodge dues.

The clothing and silver jewels which Brother C. N. Cama had ordered out arrived from England this year and were presented to the lodge which out of gratitude conferred on him the title or appellation of Honorary Depute Master of the lodge and also voted to him the Burnes Medal. Brother K. R. Cama was still holding the office of Depute Master since it was created. He was also, during this year, the Provincial Grand Secretary.

Brother N. N. Framji had by this time purchased a piece of land at Bellassis Road, admeasuring about 10,800 square yards for the benefit of the lodge which he had, however, not conveyed to the lodge. Subsequently to the purchase, however, he unfortunately fell on bad days with others with whom he was previously carrying on business but this did not prevent his carrying out his obligation and he offered to convey the land to the lodge along with the trustees of his estate and, as will be seen later on, the conveyance was duly taken.

It had come to the notice of some members that certain native residents of Bombay failing to get admittance into the lodge or apprehending from common reports of the lodge being very strict in its choice of members that they would not be accepted even if they made an attempt were proceeding to Poona for the express purpose of becoming Freemasons by getting themselves admitted in Lodge St. Andrews in the East No. 343, working under the Scotch banner and were then visiting the lodge freely after their return to Bombay. This they thought was a very objectionable proceeding which at the same time

that it tended to injure and endanger the reputation of the lodge, also thwarted the very aim and object of the craft which was to accord its privileges to worthy men and worthy men alone. Brother Murzban brought forward the subject at a lodge meeting and pointed out that Lodge St. Andrews, which was not in a position to know the character and qualifications of the native residents of Bombay to an equal degree as the members of Lodge Rising Star, should not be allowed to open its portals to them, and that a representation should be made to the Provincial Grand Lodge. An animated discussion thereupon took place, in the course of which, Brother K. R. Cama vigorously objected to the practice and reminded the brethren of the compact that was formed between the lodge and the Lodge Perseverance in 1843 when the lodge was founded by which the lodge was not to initiate Europeans and Lodge Perseverance was not to admit natives and that Lodge Perseverance had till then faithfully observed the compact fully understanding the propriety thereof to mutual satisfaction and that Lodge St. Andrews should follow their example, and he expected the Brethren to uphold the reputation of the lodge and the excellence of the craft by making a representation in temperate but firm language to the Provincial Grand Lodge so that their hands might be strengthened in adopting measures necessary for checking the objectionable practice. The lodge unanimously passed a resolution to that effect and immediately thereafter wrote a letter to the Provincial Grand Secretary making the complaint and asking him to place the matter before the Provincial Grand Master with a request that he should use his best endeavours to get the grievance remedied. (A copy of the letter will be found in Appendix M) At a lodge meeting held after this representation was submitted the Provincial Grand Master Brother Barton, was present, and Brother Cama mentioned the

complaint to him and requested him to take up the matter in the interests of Craft Masonry and to make some arrangements for putting a stop to the practice. Brother Barton, while conceding that the lodge must have a true cause for complaint expressed his opinion that the Provincial Grand Lodge could not interfere in the matter, but he trusted that the Brethren of Lodge St. Andrews would not be wanting in the exercise of their good sense in the choice of native candidates from Bombay, and be it said to the credit of these Brethren that they did thereafter discontinue the practice of initiating natives of Bombay whose character and antecedents they could have no means of knowing, and promised not to admit natives who were not actual residents of Poona as the result of communications addressed to them.

Brother Framji Cowasji Mehta received this year the Burnes Medal from the lodge with a suitable inscription in recognition of the services rendered by him as Steward for four or five years.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji presented this year a Scotch mace with silver mountings for the use of the Grand Lodge.

The finances of the lodge were at the close of the year in a healthy condition and stood at the good figure of Rs. 3104-15-1 on the credit side.

1867. This prosperity was maintained during the year 1867 for after meeting all expenses and donations in charity there was an increase of over a thousand rupees. The Worshipful Master was Brother R. C. Bahadurji.

A silver vase with a suitable inscription was presented this year to Brother C. N. Cama in further recognition his gift of masonic jewels and clothing.

The Provincial Grand Master Brother Barton proceeded to England for a few months for the benefit of his health, but before he did so Lodge Perseverance had started a movement for getting up a suitable

testimonial to him, and the lodge was asked to join but while fully participating in the desirability of the movement, it chose to act independently not from any motives of invidious distinction but from the sole desire to act prominently in doing honour to a Brother who had individually special claims on their gratitude and had always extended the right hand of fellowship to them. The lodge did accordingly act in a marked manner. It presented a special address and voted a gold jewel or plate as Brother Barton might decide costing about £s 45 and the brethren also met Brother Barton personally at a meeting appointed to receive him in response to his own desire to meet them in open lodge assembled before leaving Bombay. At that meeting which was very largely attended and was thoroughly representative, Brother Barton paid a high compliment to the Lodge and said that in admitting many Parsi brethren into the Provincial Grand Lodge that lodge had profited by importing into it much respectability, sagacity, and intelligence possessed by the brethren of the Rising Star. The address was presented by a special deputation and the plate was presented in England in due course in the following year through Brother Dadabhai Nowroji as Brother Barton had in the meantime left Bombay.

The work of instruction which was done in previous years had not been performed for a year and a half and arrangements were made during the year for reviving it.

A Masonic Library was also projected during this year and a committee was formed and Rupees fifty were contributed by the lodge as a donation in aid thereof.

The draft of the Deed of Conveyance by Brother N. N. Framji of the land to be held in trust by the lodge for the erection of the Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall was submitted and the lodge resolved that the names of Brothers R. C. Dahadurji M. C. Murzban and Jehangir

Gustadji be embodied in the Deed as its representatives, and Brothers K. R. Cama and Murzban be nominated as trustees of the land. This matter was thus pushed forward year after year.

Twelve regular meetings of the lodge and fourteen standing committee meetings were held and there were five initiations, seven passings and six raisings during the year and seven new members were admitted, of whom five were initiates, and two joining members. The initiates were Messrs. Limji Dinshaw Furdoonji, Cooverji Coyaji, Hirjibhai Framji Cooper and Doctors Burjorji Framji Lalli and Rustomji Nusserwanji Khory. The joining members were Brothers James McKinlay and Robert L. King, both holding high posts in the Provincial Grand Lodge and Past Masters of Lodge Perseverance. Brother McKinlay was affiliated on the proposal of Brother K. R. Cama who at the time of his election said that he regretted that the Brethren of Lodge Perseverance invariably refused to affiliate the members of Lodge Rising Star and advised the lodge not to retaliate but to extend the right hand of fellowship to all worthy Masons.

Brother McKinlay resigned within a few months owing to ill health. Brothers D. F. Karaka, Sorabji Pestonji Framji and A. F. Moos also resigned. The Lodge had this year to perform the melancholy duty of mourning the loss of Brother Oliver, the Historian of the Craft, and to condole with his nearest relatives.

For the first time since the lodge began to dispense sums in charity a Parsee Brother, who was a very old member of the lodge, being in distressed circumstances was assisted out of the charity funds.

A Brother while a member of the Lodge had used before Brothers Cursetji Framji Khory, Darasha R. Chichgar and Cursetji Rustomji Sethna (while they were not

Masons), language derogatory to masonry and those brethren therefore wrote to the Worshipful Master on the subject and thereupon the case was referred to the Standing Committee for inquiry. Brother K. R. Cama had also, it appears, made some complaint against the same Brother and had written to the Provincial Grand Lodge thereon and that complaint was also referred to the Standing Committee and that body decided that they could not enter into any investigation into Brother Cama's complaint as a long time had elapsed since the happening of the event referred to by him and the lodge had condoned the offence but as regards the other complaint they resolved that it should be left solely to the Worshipful Master.

The Minutes do not say what Brother Cama's complaint was, but it appears that in 1864, Brother Cama had complained about a Member having written a letter in which he had made some ambiguous and harmful reflection upon the lodge and declined to clear himself by assuring the lodge that the sentiments expressed in the letter were not his and expressing his regret for having unwittingly injured the feelings of the Members in spite of his (Brother Cama's) best efforts to persuade him to do so and that the matter was referred to the Standing Committee but at the request of Brother C. N. Cama the inquiry was postponed as he was trying to bring about an amicable settlement. The name of the Brother was not mentioned in the Minutes but it seems that he was the same Brother against whom the other Brethren mentioned above had complained, because that Brother though "passed" in 1862, was not "raised" till 1865 and Brother Cama while vacating the Eastern Chair at the close of 1862, had said that owing to some unpleasant circumstances he was not entitled to be raised and then his name was mentioned. He was Brother Framji Bomanji.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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1868.—Brother Murzban was the Worshipful Master in 1868 and his rule was marked by a thoroughness of purpose and a strong determination to uphold the integrity of the craft and the prestige of the lodge. The brethren were happy under his sway and the lodge maintained steady progress. There were five initiations, five passings, and seven raisings.

The accession on the roll of members was seven, being five initiates, namely Cooverji Sorabji Nazir, Maneckji Ratanji Reporter, Jamsetji Nowroji Unwalla, Rustomji Merwanji Patel and Merwanji Shapurji Bahadurji, one affiliate, *viz.*, Brother Darasha Dorabji Reporter from Lodge Concord and one Honorary Member Right Worshipful Brother, Captain (afterwards Sir) Henry Morland, who was then the Officiating Provincial Grand Master of Western India and Master of Lodge Perseverance. Brother J. H. Irvine who was a member from 1861 to 1865 and had resigned was elected an Honorary Member in recognition of the interest he was ever after his ceasing to be a Regular Member taking in the welfare of the lodge.

Brother Morland was also presented with the Founder's Medal which was the gift of Brother R. C. Bahadurji.

Brothers R. H. Wadia and Sorabji Frommurze resigned and Brother Framji Bomanji, whose conduct in another connection was the subject of an inquiry last year on some further complaint of forging certain passages or sentences in a letter of Brother Nowroji Furdunji and dated 16th August 1861, and two letters or Certificates

from Mr. C. A. Beytes dated 18th April 1857 and 3rd August 1861, and published in a book of testimonials was expelled from the lodge. Ever since the establishment of the lodge this was the first instance of an expulsion which was decided upon after a regular trial as of a criminal offender by a regular Court of Justice.

It was first reported at a lodge meeting that Brothers Rustomji Nusserwanji Khory and Cursetji Framji Khory objected to sit with Brother Framji Bomanji and that all efforts to bring about an amicable settlement of the differences between them had proved unavailing. The Right Worshipful Master thereupon allowed one of the complaining brethren, Cursetji F. Khory, who held an Office, to attend the meeting and ordered that Brother Rustomji N. Khory who did not hold any Office and the offending Brother should not enter the room lest the harmony of the lodge should be disturbed. Later on certain written statements tendered by the two complaining brethren were read to the lodge but the complaining Brothers' letter was not read.

Thereafter the complaining Brethren and the Brother charged were ordered by the Standing Committee to appear before them, the former with all oral and documentary evidence in substantiation and the latter in disproof of the accusation.

They accordingly appeared at a Standing Committee meeting. The Worshipful Master presided and opened the proceedings and stated the charge and asked the accused Brother to state whether he was guilty or not. He declined to answer the question contending he was under no obligation to do so until and unless his accusers made out a case against him. The Master and the members of the Standing Committee were of opinion from a masonic point of view that this attitude was unwarranted and unjustified and the accused Brother was bound to plead guilty or not and the Worshipful

Master then repeated the question: "As Master I ask you, if you are guilty or not of these accusations" and then the answer was "No." Thereupon further questions were put to him which he answered and the complaining brethren put in as evidence on their behalf the issues of the *Rast Goftar* newspaper of 14th and 21st September and 5th, 12th and 19th October, 1862; and copy of a pamphlet with the title page "Testimonials and Review by the Editor of the *Rast Goftar* on the said Testimonials" and a book called "The Lights and Shades of the East" and concluded their evidence and observations with a remark that they were not satisfied with the defence as published in the *Bombay Samachar* of 15th October, 1868. The offending Brother was then called upon to answer to the charges and he argued that the interpolations with which he had been charged had not been proved to have been made by him and declined to disclose any matter connected with his defence or to enter into his defence or to produce testimony, verbal or documentary, in his vindication. The members of the Committee retired for deliberation and after a few minutes resumed their seats, and then the Worshipful Master asked each of them whether he believed and found the offending Brother guilty or not guilty and the answer was "Guilty." The Worshipful Master then said he was of the same opinion, and then a resolution was unanimously passed as follows :—

"That looking at the whole of the evidence in the case and taking into consideration the kind of answers given by Brother Framji to the several questions put to him during the progress of the trial, the line of defence adopted by him and his broad refusal to enter into the particulars and the merits of the case the members of the Standing Committee unanimously come to the conclusion that Brother Framji Bomanji is guilty of having forged or caused to be forged certain passages or sentences, viz.,

those specified in Brother Rustomji Nusserwanji's letter of the 16th August 1861 from Brother Nowroji Furdunji and the two letters of certificates from Mr. C. A. Beytes, dated 16th April 1857 and 3rd August 1861, respectively, with a view to promote his worldly interests by means thereof." An emergent meeting of the lodge was then called to receive the Report of the Standing Committee and to come to a final adjudication in the matter. The Worshipful Master explained to the members all the circumstances connected with the case and the reasons and grounds for the resolution of the Standing Committee in an elaborate speech. The offending Brother, who was present, said it was impossible for any Brother to fathom his motives and to know why he refused to make a defence. He was asked then to make his defence which he did not do, but at the same time he said that certain things had happened which had offended him, and he believed that the Worshipful Master was prejudiced against him, as appeared from his having ordered him out of the lodge which was tantamount to prejudging his case, and that he was not going to have an impartial inquiry and that the matter had happened six years ago, and he had reasons of his own for not making a defence. He was again asked to state his defence there and then which he again refused to do, and added that he would make his defence before the Grand Lodge. The report of the Standing Committee was then confirmed by fifteen votes against one, the complaining Brother not being allowed to vote at all. Then the Worshipful Master made some observations on the general character and consequences of the several sorts and degrees of punishment in the power of the lodge to award, and having regard to the lapse of time that had occurred in the matter recommended a merciful treatment. The offending Brother was then asked if he had anything to

say why punishment should not be awarded to him for commission of the offence brought home to him but he made no reply. Then by a majority of votes a resolution was passed excluding the Brother from a participation of all rights and privileges appertaining to the members of the lodge.

The offending Brother had, after the report of the Standing Committee, sent in his resignation, but it was not accepted. He was in arrears of lodge dues and it was resolved that he should be finally called upon to pay them and given notice that in default his name would be struck off the rolls.

After the lodge passed the resolution of expulsion the said Brother wrote a letter of protest which was couched in very discourteous language. It was brought up at a subsequent meeting, and the lodge resolved that he should be called upon to withdraw it and to tender an apology for having sent it, and that in the event of non-compliance with the requisition the letter should be forwarded to the Provincial Grand Master for disposal. The expulsion was in due course confirmed by the Provincial Grand Master.

Right Worshipful Brother Ballingall died during the year and the lodge recorded its regret in suitable terms.

During the year presents were made to the lodge of the photo of a lodge room by Brother Jamsetji Dhanji-bhoy Wadia, an elegantly bound copy of the Khordeh-Avesta by Brother R. C. Bahadurji, a handsome cushion for placing thereon the sacred volume by the Worshipful Master's wife, and a sum of rupees fifty by a Brother named E. Meidenger who had left Bombay, contributed to the Charity Funds through Brother Aaron "as a slight token of the esteem and respect in which he held the lodge for its admirable working, for the hospitality and brotherly feelings always shown to visitors at its

meetings, and for the truly masonic spirit in which the lodge was worked."

The plate voted to Brother Barton last year was presented this year in Yarborough Lodge at Brighton by Brother Dadabhoy Nowroji on behalf of the lodge, and an account of the proceedings of that lodge in the *Brighton Gazette* of 24th September 1868 was read at the lodge meeting held on 20th October, and that lodge was in due course thanked for allowing the jewel to be presented at their meeting.

At the same time that this presentation was made the testimonial got up by the other lodges was also presented. The following account is taken from the *Indian Freemason and Monthly Miscellany*, Volume XI, pp. 32-3.

"An interesting ceremony took place at the annual installation meeting of 'The Yarborough Lodge' No. 811, Brighton, in the presence of Rev. John Griffith (Principal of Brighton College) Master of the Lodge, Lord Pelham. M. P., and E. J. Turner, Esquire (Grand Master and Depute Grand Master of the Province of Sussex) and a large number of visiting brethren. This was a presentation to Brother R. B. Barton, Provincial Grand Master of Western India, of a magnificent ornament consisting of an Epergne for flowers on the centre pedestal and four branches for candles on each side of the same supported on a neat but elegant base carrying on the side the crest, ribband and motto of the recipient, and on the reverse the following inscription:—

"Presented to Richard Bolton Barton, Esquire, LL. D., Barrister-at-Law, Provincial Grand Master for Western India, and late Acting Chief Magistrate of Bombay, as a mark of esteem, affection and regard by the members of Rising Star No. 342 of Bombay instituted for admitting the natives of India into the masonic brotherhood, September 1867," with a beautifully modelled figure in dead silver representing a Parsee Mason with elbow leaning

on a masonic pillar, the hand pointing to a Provincial Grand Master's jewell lying at the foot of the pillar forming the centre and principal object of the piece of plate. The testimonial also included a handsome 22-inch oval silver waiter chased with a laurel leaf border, the centre being engraved with a crest, ribband and motto of the recipient and the following inscription: "Presented to Richard Bolton Barton, Esquire, LL. D., Provincial Grand Master of Western India, late Acting Chief Magistrate of Bombay, by the undermentioned lodges: Provincial Grand Lodge of India, St. Andrews in the East, Poona; Perseverance, Bombay; Hope, Kurrachee; St. Paul, Mhow; in testimony of their high appreciation of the services rendered by him to the lodges of Western India 1868" surrounded by an elegantly engraved border of oak leaves and laurel.

Brother Dadabhoy Nowroji, who attended as a deputation for the Bombay lodges, expressed thanks on their behalf for allowing the opportunity to be made in the Yarborough Lodge of notifying their testimony to the esteem and regard in which Brother Barton was held in the province over which he so ably presided. He continued—"Lodge Rising Star, Worshipful Master, is the first lodge founded for admitting the natives of India to the privileges of Freemasonry. At the time of its institution in 1843 there were supposed to be many difficulties in the way: difficulties of race, difficulties of social custom, of political equality, differences of enlightenment and perhaps many others. But there were stout hearts who headed by James Burnes, maintained and desired to prove that Masonry belonged to no creed or colour, to no climate or race. It was the universal patrimony of mankind. It was the "one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin" and Lodge Rising Star thus came into existence. The foundation of that lodge has broken the spell of ages.

The young Parsees, yet mere striplings in Masonry, are already showing the arrogance of contesting that if Masonry was not their own they were at least fellow-masons from the earliest periods.

The Parsees and Mahomedans especially of the Persian race take to Masonry as young ducks take to water. The moment they enter the holy precincts they find themselves in their own element. The gratitude they feel for the boon in—I will not simply say bestowing upon them but—restoring to them the benefits of Masonry, was so keenly felt that at the very first anniversary of the Lodge Rising Star it founded a medal in honour of its first Master and Founder Dr. Burnes, one of which you now see decorating Brother Barton's breast. Another instance of their gratitude is the ceremony of to-night. Brother Barton has as a citizen filled the important functions of Chief Magistrate, Queen's Coroner and Head of the Insolvent Court of Bombay and I have a doubt if any person whether Englishman or native will deny that he held the scales justly between all. Valuable and justly honoured as these services are, the masonic virtues of Brother Barton claim still higher admiration, the virtues that he has not merely acquired after being a Mason but those actually brought with him when he became a Mason. His genial kindness and sincere honest good will towards the natives of India has endeared him to all. A universe cannot be discovered twice. A truth cannot be discovered twice. A first lodge cannot be founded twice. If Brother Barton had not the opportunity of founding the first lodge for the admission of natives, he was still fortunate enough of having the opportunity of doing something that was first of its kind. It was he who systematically and freely admitted the natives into the Grand Lodge of India. Before that time there was only one native Brother Maneckji Cursetji who held Grand Lodge Office. If Brother Barton has not founded Lodge Rising

Star, he has nursed it, strengthened it and encouraged it in its forward course. The members desirous of showing their esteem, specially wished that a native should present this testimonial. It is my sincere wish in which all my native brethren heartily join that you may live long to enjoy the consciousness that you have done your duty as a man and Mason."

The Worshipful Master then presented the Salver on behalf of the other lodges with some appropriate remarks. Brother Barton in responding thanked the brethren for having elected him a member of the Yarborough Lodge and permitting their hospitable board to be made the medium through which he said "these testimonials are presented to me by dearly loved friends thousands of miles away. The Masons of Western India would feel grateful and although this presentation comes from lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of Scotland it is evident that no matter the colour of the banner the hearts of Masons are all of the one true mould and brotherly love abides therein.

The reception of my esteemed Brother and friend Dadabhoy Nowroji here to-night and the admirable manner in which he addressed you will make not a few think that after all great as England is there are other countries beyond its own pale cliffs and people who only require kindness, consideration and justice to place them on a level with the most favoured nations of the earth. I have already conveyed my thanks to all the lodges under my jurisdiction in Western India, but this I must say by one and all of them I have been treated for years with a kindness, courtesy and forbearance that no words of mine can express."

The funds at the end of this year amounted to Rupees 5,298-15-5, of which Rupees 3,291-4-0 stood to the credit of the Charity Account.

At the meeting held for the election of the Master for the ensuing 12 months, a Brother with the Worshipful

Master's permission delivered an elaborate discourse on the qualifications required in a ruler of the lodge and proposed in very eulogistic and expressive language that Brother Marzban should be re-elected Master by acclamation as he said the "Star" never shone more resplendent than during his rule. The Worshipful Master objected to the proposal on principle saying that some members would not have courage enough to speak in opposition to it while by allowing it they would be doing injustice to other worthy members eligible for the chair and requested the brethren to proceed with the election in the usual manner and thereupon Brother Murzban was re-elected by a majority of votes.

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

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1869.—This choice for the second time was fully justified for Brother Murzban added fresh laurels to his achievements of the past year by his perseverance in masonic duties, his earnestness of purpose in all he did, his enforcement of discipline and his zealous endeavours in all other matters respecting the advancement of the welfare of the lodge. He drew forth unstinted praise and admiration for his work and when he was about to lay down the hiram after a second year's arduous labour some brethren suggested his election as Worshipful Master for the third time but he stepped in and as the records show prevented this endeavour bearing fruit on the ground that other members were entitled to occupy the chair, The lodge however on his retirement from office resolved that a full-sized portrait of his be placed in the lodge rooms, the cost to be defrayed by subscriptions amongst the members, and voted to him the Founder's medal in addition to a Past Master's jewel.

In numbers the lodge did not gain but in the quality of members it did this year. Two brethren namely Brothers (now Sir) Pherozsha M. Mehta, hailing from Lodge Marquis of Dalhousie, London, and Jamsetji Jahangir Panthkey of Lodge Eastern Star, Bombay, were affiliated, the former of whom now adorns our list of Honorary Members in which he was placed in the year 1893. Mr. Ardesir Jehangir Wadia was the only person initiated.

There were two resignations, *viz.*, of Brothers Pestonji Dajibhoy Unwalla and Merwanji Bomanj, so that the net increase was only one.

The lodge was very strict and rigid in its scrutiny into the qualifications of proposed members and had not at all relaxed its cautious policy in that behalf. It disapproved of four candidates but at the same time it was not unwilling to extend its fellowship to worthy men and did not want to limit the number of members, but was anxious to further its noble work of usefulness. The number of subscribing members was by this time already about 50 and a proposition was brought forward by a Brother that the number should be limited to that figure. He found a solitary seconder but the proposition was vetoed by all the other brethren after much discussion.

The finances of the lodge, however, were in a more flourishing condition on the whole, and in the scales the charity outweighed the general funds. There having been only one initiation there could not be an appreciable increase to the general funds; besides that a pretty large sum was expended on Past Masters' jewels which had been voted to the five previous Past Masters but had not been presented and were ordered out from Scotland this year and these and the ordinary and other expenses of the lodge reduced the general fund a little, but still it stood at Rs. 1,311-13-7. The charity funds stood at Rs. 4,338 in spite of the amounts expended thereout for relief of distressed and suffering Masons. Up to now it appears that the lodge was systematically helping Masons or widows and children of Masons left in destitute circumstances, and its succour was not extended to non-Masons. The charity funds having increased and some members being at their wits' ends how to employ them, propositions were brought forward for laying out sums in helping people in sore need of all communities without distinction of race, caste, creed or colour in such manner as the Past Masters of the lodge or the Standing Committee might recommend, but after discussion they were withdrawn as the lodge considered that there

was nothing to prevent their helping non-Masons if they chose to do so. For the first time a sum of Rupees two hundred was lent out of the charity funds to an European Brother to enable him to start in business and also a monthly stipend of Rs. 25 was voted during such time as the Standing Committee might think fit to continue it for the support and education of the son of a Parsi Brother who had died some years ago.

The presentation of Past Masters' jewels to Brothers Merwanji Manekji Sethna, Nowroji N. Framji, D. R. Cola, C. J. Tarachand and R. C. Bahadurji was made at a meeting which was very largely attended by the members and a large number of visiting brethren who had been invited to give eclat to the proceedings followed by a banquet, the expense of which was to a great extent defrayed from subscriptions raised from amongst the members pursuant to a resolution of the lodge passed with the object of encroaching as little as possible upon the lodge funds. Brother M. M. Sethna presented on that occasion a Government 4 per cent. Promissory Loan Note for Rs. 500 upon condition that it should remain as a permanent endowment, the income thereof to be applied towards the charity funds of the lodge, and thus laid the foundation of endowment funds.

The Amateurs of the Parsi Elphinstone Dramatic Club, by the special desire of their Secretary, Bro. Cooverji S. Nazir, who then was a young budding Mason, gave a performance of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" (in English) and the Farce of "Our New Man" under the patronage of the Right Worshipful Master, officers and brethren of the lodge on 13th February 1869 at the Grant Road Theatre and the net proceeds of the performance, amounting to Rupees four hundred and fifty-seven, were handed by the club to be placed to the credit of the charity funds of the lodge, for which the club and the Secretary were duly thanked by special

resolutions. On this occasion a dispensation was obtained by the Right Worshipful Master from the Provincial Grand Master for all brethren under the Scottish banner to appear at the performance in masonic costume. There was another occasion on which the Parsi brethren of the lodge were requested by the Right Worshipful Master to bedeck themselves in masonic costume in public and that was the Jamsetji Nowroze (the Vernal Equinox) kept by Zoroastrians universally as a festive day. Many brethren desired that the Parsi brethren should march in procession (laid down by the Constitutions) from the lodge to some convenient Fire-temple or Agiary in masonic costume. The Standing Committee warmly supported the recommendation which was then brought before the lodge and that body by a majority passed a resolution accepting it.

Two instructive lectures, one called "A Masonic Lecture" and the other "Lecture on Landmarks of Freemasonry" were delivered by the Worshipful Master and were highly applauded and some instruction meetings were also, it seems, held during this year.

Brother C. N. Cama had already been voted the Founder's medal and honoured with the title of Honorary Depute Master, but it was considered that that honorary appellation could not be continued permanently, and as the lodge had in 1867 resolved to do something suitable in return for the munificent gifts he had made of masonic jewels and clothing and nothing had been done till then a resolution was passed that the mere usual Burne's medal being inadequate a Burne's gold medal of the same size as the silver one should be struck with a suitable inscription and presented to him.

Presents of an elegant substantial black-wood box from Brother Jamsetji Dhanjibhai Wadia and of a book called "Masonic Harmonia" from Brother H. H. Aaron were thankfully received and the book was lent to the

Organist of the lodge to further his progress in masonic music.

Brother Pestonji Hormusji Cama also presented to the lodge three large tracing boards handsomely illuminated and had a frame set at his expense to Right Worshipful Brother Maneckji Cursetji's oil paint likeness.

The Provincial Grand Master had now returned to Bombay and paid a visit to the lodge at one of its regular meetings and expressed that he was eminently satisfied at the way in which the lodge was worked and that he had seen many lodges in England, Ireland and other places, but that he had never witnessed greater caution, strictness and truly masonic spirit anywhere else than in the lodge, and at another meeting he informed the brethren that Brother Dadabhai Nowroji had astounded the European brethren of Lodge Yarborough by his neat and elegant speech and the complete satisfaction he gave him while presenting the plate on behalf of the lodge. In advance of his visit Brother Barton had sent to the lodge a photo of his taken with the plate presented to him by the lodge with a letter and the photo was ordered to be framed and hung in the lodge room.

Brother Dadabhai Nowroji was at this time in India for a few months again and at the very first meeting of the year which he attended he was formally introduced and then received with masonic honours for distinguishing himself as a benefactor of the people of India in a far distant country and for his valuable exertions in all that was truly great. Brother Dadabhai had then already made England his home, and was more there than in India and had also his firm of Messrs. Dadabhai Nowroji & Co., carrying on business there. He had devoted himself to the service of his countrymen and had by reason of his public life few opportunities for distinguishing himself in Masonry. Yet the Star, his mother lodge, had a place

in his heart and its affairs always claimed a part of his attention which he was not slow to give. At the end of the year he again left for England and with all the good wishes of the lodge.

Brother Barton also again left for England at the end of the year and the lodge recorded a resolution in suitable terms regretting his departure and the consequent loss to the fraternity in Bombay. He was succeeded by Right Worshipful Brother Captain Henry Morland who had already, as the minutes show, conceived an exceedingly favourable opinion about the lodge which he had openly said was one of the most loyal lodges to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and was worked with credit and efficiency. Brother Morland's nomination to the exalted office of Provincial Grand Master of Western Star was supported by the lodge.

The lodge did not consider its duty as being confined only to encourage the noble principles of the Craft within its sacred walls alone and to give every Brother his due for what he did in the lodge but in a truly masonic spirit and according to the ancient charges it applauded within its precincts the good works and deeds and acts of benevolence and charity, as understood in their most extended sense, of its members as citizens of the world, and in this year for the first time the services rendered by Brother R. C. Bahadurji in his profession and the noble devotion shown by him to some of his patients were recorded in very flattering terms in the minutes of a lodge meetings, the object being to hold up his example for imitation by the brethren in their different walks of life apart from their duties within the inner, yet, very large circle of Freemasonry.

The members were again getting a little irregular in their attendance and had to be warned that the rule regarding the sending in of excuses would be strictly enforced.

The draft trust deed of the land for the Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall was re-submitted by Brother N. N. Framji and was finally approved by the lodge and it is stated that Brother Jehangir Merwanji Pleader had helped in the matter with his legal advice. The representatives on behalf of the lodge were dropped and Brothers K. R. Cama and Murzban were nominated Trustees as resolved in 1867. The project of the Masonic Hall was thus making progress but was no way near completion. The lodge found the rooms where it assembled unsuitable and had to write to Lodge Perseverance and also to the Provincial Grand Lodge more than once complaining of insufficient accommodation and want of punkhas and masonic pavement and lights in the East, South and West, but the grievance was not remedied.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

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1870.—Brother Jehangir Gustadji was elected Master for the year 1870 and Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama, who was at this time Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Western Star, duly installed him by desire of the Provincial Grand Master, who was also present at the meeting.

The system introduced last year of using spare time when no work was done in giving lectures was continued. Brothers Murzban and J. J. Lam delivered masonic lectures while the Worshipful Master enlightened the brethren by reading passages on Masonry from Dr. Oliver's works.

The degree work done was 7 initiations and 6 passings. Nine new members were enrolled while 7 resigned, and of the nine, seven were initiates, one affiliate and one joining member. The initiates were Bomanji Cursetji Ashburner, Burjorji Pallonji Dolimeherji and his brother Sorabji, Hormusji Ardeshir Suntoke, Jehangir Rustomji Mody and Burjorji Dorabji Patel and his brother Nusserwanji, and the affiliate and joining members were Brothers Pestonji Dinsha Adenwalla from Lodge Felix No. 355 S.C. of Aden and Rustomji Hormusji Mistrina of Lodge Eastern Star. Brother Adenwala had already been proposed for initiation and elected a member on 20th January 1869 but he subsequently seems to have left for Aden and entered Lodge Felix and now became therefore an affiliated member. The resigning members were Brothers J. F. Unwalla, D. D. Ghandhi, Jehangir Merwanji Pleader, Dossabhoy B. Pesikaka, N. M. Lungrana, F. C. Mehta and H. N. Saklatwalla.

The medal voted in 1868 to Worshipful Brother F. C. Mehta was presented to him this year. The gold medal voted to Brother C. N. Cama had not yet been presented to him for there was none to spare and the medal die was missing and the lodge thereupon resolved that if the die could not be found a testimonial in form to be approved by him should be presented to that worthy Brother of the value of Rs. 250, and accordingly later in the year a gold jewel consisting of a key beautifully engraved and elegant-looking and having a suitable inscription, a Master Mason's highly finished and elegant apron and a sash in accordance with the Scotch Constitution and interlaced in front with silver thread were ordered out for him from Scotland.

Brother J. D. Wadia presented to the lodge this year a cigar box for the use of the European brethren and Brother Hormusji Pestonji Framji had the aprons and jewels repaired and put in order at his own expense.

The question of the Past Master's jewel which had been voted to Brother A. J. Bhajeewalla on his retirement from the Eastern Chair but had been with-held was again brought up this year and it was resolved after some discussion that it should be sent to him with a letter from the Standing Committee, but this too was not done and the subject came up again in 1872.

There was a judicious distribution of the charity funds this year as in the past and destitute orphans left by Masons and non-Masons in a far distant country like Singapore and the poor Zoroastrians of Persia were amongst the objects of the bounty of the lodge. Not only this, but the sympathy of the lodge was extended in the common idea of an universal and benevolent institution to the succour and relief of the widows and orphans of the soldiers who had perished in the dreadful European war which was then raging on the Continent and Rupees three hundred were voted out of the charity funds, one-

half to be remitted to the Grand Orient of France and the other half to the Grand Lodge of Prussia, and this amount was duly remitted through the Treasurer of the Provincial Grand Lodge together with a further sum of Rupees one hundred and forty-eight subscribed by individual members.

There were 12 regular meetings of the lodge and nine meetings of the Standing Committee during the year. At the last or anniversary meeting two interesting functions took place. Brother Murzban was presented with a Past Master's jewel, Founder's medal and a silver cup, which were all voted to him last year, and a full-sized portrait of his was placed in the Masonic Hall. Right Worshipful Brother Captain Morland, the Provincial Grand Master, was, by permission of the Worshipful Master, presented in open lodge by a special deputation of the members of Lodge Felix No. 355 S. C. of Aden with a vellum roll on which was engrossed an extract from the minute book of that lodge unanimously electing him (its own child) its honorary member.

This year the lodge passed a resolution on a motion brought forward by Brother D. R. Chichgar on grounds of expediency, convenience and economy (1) that the rooms in Colaba which it had rented under Lodge Perseverance and in which it had been assembling for many years now having been found very unsuitable and deficient in accommodation and other ways should be given up and the lodge should meet in the Masonic Hall at Mazagon which the Freemasons' Hall Committee had offered to allow it to use on payment of a fair rent and was a suitable place for masonic meetings, and (2) that the lodge meetings should be held on the first Saturday of every month except that when that day should be a holiday or an emergency should arise it should meet on the preceding or such other available day as the Worshipful Master may think proper. The By-law prescrib

ing the day for holding meetings was accordingly altered and subsequently approved by the Grand Lodge and from this time forward the regular meetings have been held on the first Saturday of every month.

Lodge Perserverance also was trying to secure a suitable and central hall for all lodges under the Scottish banner to meet, and the lodge was asked by that body to nominate its representative on their Committee appointed for considering the subject, and being still of opinion that if all the Scotch lodges were to meet in one common hall Lodge Rising Star would not keep aloof provided all terms were suitable. The lodge nominated Brothers Murzban, M. M. Sethna, J. J. Lam, H. P. Framji and Darasha Chichgar as its representatives on Lodge Perseverance Committee. The Mazagon Hall was, however, used for a very short time. Brother Darasha Chichgar had shown a great interest in the internal economy of the lodge and had proved a very earnest and zealous Secretary during this and the preceding years and he was duly rewarded by a Founder's medal being voted to him in return.

The transaction relating to the land for the Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall was completed this year. The necessary Trust Deed was executed by Brother N. N. Framji and the Trustees of his estate and together with the muniments of title was handed over to the lodge. The Trustees, as already stated, were Brothers K. R. Cama and M. C. Murzban. (A copy of the Trust Deed is set out in Appendix N.)

1871.—The year 1871 was more or less a quiet year but the lodge unfortunately lost very much in numerical strength, for four of its most sympathetic, efficient, useful and energetic Past Masters, *viz.*, Brothers M. M. Sethna, N. N. Framji, C. J. Tarachand and D. R. Cola resigned. Brother L. R. King, who was almost always present at all the lodge meetings and took an interest in all affairs

appertaining to the lodge, also resigned, having had to proceed to England, and upon his resignation being accepted it was proposed he should be made an honorary member, but that Brother on coming to know of it wrote declining the honour with thanks as he wished at some future time to be a voting member again. Further, Brothers N. M. Wadia, F. D. Bahadurji, Hormusji Pestonji Cama, Sorabji Jijibhai, Merwanji Shapurji Bahadurji, Dadabhoy Nowroji and Nowroji Furdoonji also resigned, and of these, Brother Dadabhai Nowroji was elected an honorary member.

The Right Worshipful Master resigned his office during the middle of the year in the interest of the lodge as owing to certain anxieties which followed upon the adverse decision of a civil suit in the High court against him he was unable, he said, to discharge his duties efficiently. He also resigned his membership at the same time and Brother Jehangir Gustadji was elected to fill the office of Worshipful Master for the rest of the year.

Against the thirteen resignations there were two additions, namely of Mr. Rustomji Muncherji Chichgar and Dr. Dossabhai Pestonji, of whom the former has since continued without a break to be a subscribing member and has, as will be seen later on, rendered good and substantial service to the lodge.

The lodge now again removed from the beginning of this year from the Mazagon Hall to a building at Gowalia Tank Road in consequence of new arrangements made by the Provincial Grand Master.

A testimonial was got up this year to the Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, the Right Honourable the Earl of Dalhousie, and the lodge contributed its mite thereto.

The gold jewel and apron voted to Brother C. N. Cama and Founder's medal voted to Brother D. R. Chichgar were presented to them during this year.

The committee of representatives of the Scottish masonic bodies had submitted during the year three reports anent the proposed Masonic Hall and the lodge adopted them and invested Rupees five hundred in fifty shares of the Masonic Hall under the scheme put forward by the Committee and appointed the Worshipful Master and Brother D. R. Chichgar its representatives on that Committee. Brother Murzban was the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee at this date.

Amongst the recipients of charitable donations this year was a French Arab of the name of Jose Ben Teddo, who was helped upon the recommendation of Brother L. A. Lessingnôt, then Vice-Consul for France, to enable him to proceed to Gibraltar.

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## CHAPTER XX.

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1872.—Brother Darasha R. Chichgar was the Worshipful Master during the year 1872. He was installed into the Eastern Chair by Brother K. R. Cama, who was still the Substitute Provincial Grand Master and had to perform the ceremony in that capacity for the second time. He continued the practice of giving lectures for the instruction and improvement of the brethren. He himself read two papers on the objects of Freemasonry, in one of which he illustrated the very striking resemblance between a bee-hive and a masonic lodge. He also read at one meeting a short and vivid account of the masonic life and achievements of Dr. Burnes, the father and founder of the lodge, and at its conclusion Right Worshipful Brother J. Anderson, an honorary member and one of the Past Masters of the lodge and as a very old Mason of the time of Dr. Burnes also recounted that noble Brother's career and particularly the zeal with which he had founded the Star, and stated to the brethren that a very high opinion about the efficiency and respectability of the lodge was entertained by the members of one of the masonic lodges he had happened to visit during his recent visit to England.

The Worshipful Master's example was followed by Brother Murzban, whose interest in diffusing masonic knowledge still unabatingly continued. At his suggestion the lodge resolved to place the library of books in the lodge-room for the use of the brethren and appointed Brother Hirjibhoy F. Cooper to be the librarian to issue books on days appointed for the regular meetings.

The general funds of the lodge were now again at an ebb and showed a debit balance of Rs. 400. Measures were adopted for tiding over the difficulty by curtailing the expenditure and increasing the income by imposing a dinner fee per head until such time as the finances improved and borrowing from the charity funds to meet immediate necessities. The charity funds still stood at a good figure in spite of donations and monthly stipends paid out of it amounting to about Rs. 1,100, and were now formally transferred to the names of Brothers Murzban, D. R. Chichgar, R. C. Bahadurji and C. N. Cama with power [to any two of them to endorse them.

The lodge had to perform the melancholy duty of condoling with the Provincial Grand Master on the loss sustained by him in the loss of his wife, and a resolution was passed in that behalf at an emergent meeting, a copy of which was handed to him personally by a deputation consisting of the members of the Standing Committee. The lodge also joined this year all the sister lodges working under the Scottish Jurisdiction in response to a suggestion from the Provincial Grand Master in a suitable address of condolence to Lady Mayo in her then recent bereavement caused by the assassination of Lord Mayo at the hands of a convict in the Andaman Islands, and contributed its mite towards the cost thereof.

The Past Master's clothing and jewel which had been voted to Brother K. R. Cama when he retired from the Master's chair were presented to him this year with full masonic honours, and while suitably acknowledging this mark of esteem and fraternal regard he again assured the Brethren of his desire and readiness at all times to assist the lodge to the best of his power and ability.

Brother J. Gustadji was also presented at the same time with a Past Master's jewel.

The Past. Master's jewel voted to Brother A. J. Bhajee. walla had not been sent by the Standing Committee to him with a letter as decided in the year 1870. The Right Workshipful Master with the sanction of that body presented the jewel this year to Brother Ardesir at one of the lodge meetings, as the circumstances under which the previous resolution on the subject had been passed had, it was explained, ceased to exist.

The Provincial Grand Master had formulated a scheme for the dispensation of charity by all the lodges in the Presidency and the formation of a General Benevolent Fund for that purpose and it was personally put forward by him before the members at a lodge meeting at the end of the year. It included the building of a Masonic Hall as one of its objects. It was discussed in the Standing Committee, to which it was referred, and was approved in its general features. It then came before the lodge but was opposed by Brother P. M. Mehta and others who doubted its efficiency and thought that the bestowal of charity under it could not be carried on as advantageously as by the individual lodges themselves and that at any rate the building of a Masonic Hall should not have been included in it. Brothers K. R. Cama and M. C. Murzban and others were in favour of the scheme but by a majority of votes it was not adopted. Within a few days thereafter an emergent meeting was called at the request of several brethren for reconsidering the matter, and upon the proposition of Brother P. M. Mehta, duly seconded, the lodge passed a resolution thereat unanimously approving the scheme but with a recommendation that it would be advisable to keep the subject of a Masonic Hall apart from it, and Brother K. R. Cama expressed his entire satisfaction at the result.

Brother P. M. Mehta was this year nominated the representative of the lodge on the Masonic Hall Committee.

Only two new members, namely, Manekji Hormusji Masani, an initiate, and Brother Sherifali Salemahomed an affiliate from Lodge Harmony of Kurrachee, joined, while four members, *viz.* Brothers D. H. Cama, Cooverji Coyaji, Cumrudin Tyebji and Hormusji Pestonji Framji resigned the lodge.

For the first time it was in this year that a Hindu Brother named Harichand Chintaman sought admission in the lodge as a visitor. As on the ground of their being polytheists—and not monotheists—the Hindus were not taken in the Order, a discussion arose but ultimately the Worshipful Master admitted the Brother as he belonged to a regularly constituted lodge of Masons in England and also held a certificate from the Grand Lodge.

It had come to the knowledge of the Worshipful Master that some Hindu gentlemen were about to be initiated in Lodge Cyrus. He therefore without losing time wrote a letter in his official capacity after consulting many of the oldest members of the lodge to Worshipful Brother J. N. Dady, the Master of that lodge, informing him that the question of admitting Hindus into the craft had engaged the serious attention of several individual lodges but had not been definitely settled and that the consensus of opinion was that it should be solved by all the lodges collectively and suggesting that before he took any steps in the matter, it would be better for him to hold a conference with all the sister lodge, both English and Scotch and discuss the subject as it affected the interest of every Freemason throughout the globe, and requested him to read the letter to his lodge before proceeding to ballot for the candidates. (See Appendix O.)

The minutes do not contain any further allusion to this matter, but the following extract from Worshipful Brother H. W. Barrow's contribution printed in the Cama Masonic Jubilee Volume shows what was done by the

fraternity and the Provincial Grand Lodge in the matter :—

“In or about 1872 some little advance was made by the admission of four other Hindu gentlemen in lodge by us but as no regular rules regarding such admissions had been laid down, the whole question was referred by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India to a Committee consisting of Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama and Right Worshipful Brother Muncherji Cowasji Murzban (now C. I. E.) and the result of their report was that subject to certain modifications the recommendations contained therein for regular and clearly defined provisions regarding the declaration and obligation were formally sanctioned. These were in effect precisely the same fundamental principles as those which were adopted by the authorities of the District Grand Lodge and in both cases were duly authorized by the supreme authorities in Scotland and in England.”

1873.—Brother P.M. Mehta was the Worshipful Master in 1873, and he worked the lodge with the same zeal, energy and independence as his worthy predecessors had evinced in all matters affecting the lodge or advancing its interests and usefulness.

Thirteen lodge meetings and nine Standing Committee meetings were held and four initiations, four passings, and five raisings were the degree work done during the year and the Right Worshipful Master had also delivered a lecture on a masonic subject taking a portion of the tracing board in the first degree for his text, which was considered very interesting and was highly applauded.

Members absenting themselves without sending excuses as required by the By-laws were warned by a circular against the consequences of their default. A special Committee was appointed to revise the By-laws consisting of Brothers K. R. Cama, Murzban, D. R. Chichgar,

J. D. Wadia, Jehangir Gustadji and J. C. Cama. Brother D. R. Chichgar was this year appointed the representative of the lodge in future on the Masonic Hall Committee and a Past Master's jewel and a time-piece voted to him by the lodge in recognition of his exertions and zeal in its interests were presented at a lodge meeting, at which the Worshipful Master also presented to him a valuable masonic work as a slight token of the esteem in which he held him and of the services rendered to him in the general working of the lodge.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji who was at this time holding the high post of Honorary Depute Provincial Grand Master of Western India had, after a long-continued absence, attended the first meeting of the year, which was the installation meeting, as a Grand Lodge Officer with the Provincial Grand Lodge, and the minutes state that a peculiar incident of the evening was the warm and enthusiastic welcome accorded to him and his being greeted with grand honours as the founder and patriarch of the lodge.

The finances were again in a good condition and the dinner fee of Rupee one was abolished.

Ten new members were enrolled, of whom five were initiates and five affiliates. The initiates were Mr. (now Sir) Muncherjee Merwanji Bhowmugree, Maneksha Dhanjishaw Doctor, Kaikusroo Nowroji Kabraji, Manekji Cowasji Entee and Shripad Babaji Thakar (C. S.). The affiliates were Brothers Jamsetji Cursetji Cama, Hormusji Muncherji Chichgar, Bala Mangesh Wagle, Shantaram Narayen and Ganesh Nilkant. Death claimed amongst its victims two good Masons this year, one of whom was a member of the lodge and on its rolls at the date of his death and the other one of its most distinguished Past Masters who had resigned only two years before his death, and for the first time in its history, the lodge performed the melancholy duty of holding funeral lodges in their

memory. The member who died was Brother Rustomji Hormusji Mistry who during the brief space of three years and a quarter that he was a member of the lodge had served it as a steward and had made himself useful, and had impressed the brethren as a good Mason, so much that three brethren in commemoration of his demise contributed sums of money to the charity funds of the lodge. At the funeral lodge held to mourn his loss (and that was the very first one held by the lodge) the lodge passed a resolution condoling with the widow of the deceased which was duly handed to her by a special deputation.

The Past Master in whose memory the second funeral lodge was held, was Right Worshipful Brother M. M. Sethna. A regular lodge meeting convened before his death was postponed, and, under dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master (which had to be obtained as the deceased Brother was not at his death a member of the lodge) an emergent meeting was held for the funeral service in his memory as an exceptional case, and after a very solemn ceremony and after drinking to his memory in sacred silence the brethren passed resolutions recording their deep regret at his death and their sense of the loss to the native fraternity by the death of such an amiable, esteemed and influential Mason and condoling with the family of the deceased, and these resolutions were handed to his son and heir Mr. Ardesir by a special deputation consisting of the Right Worshipful Master and Brothers K. R., Cama, Murzban, D. R. Chichgar and others. The lodge also passed a resolution that in order to perpetuate the deceased's memory, a subscription should be raised amongst the members and the amount thereof should be added to the promissory loan notes for Rs. 500 presented by him some years ago as an endowment fund subject to the same conditions as attached to the said loan note, and the whole fund should be named "The Merwanji

Manekji Sett Charity Fund." This was a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased who was no doubt a warm-hearted and sincere friend of the lodge.

Mr. Ardeshir Merwanji Sett thanked the lodge for its condolence and at the same time handed a Government Promissory Loan Note for Rupees Five Hundred as a contribution to the fund resolved to be raised to perpetuate his father's memory. This was the second endowment after the first one made by Brother M. M. Sett himself.

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## CHAPTER XXI.

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1874.—It seemed as if funeral lodges were going to follow in quick succession for in the year 1874 also the lodge had to repeat its sorrowful duty of holding two such lodges, one in memory of Brother Rustomji Sorabji Punegar, who was on the roll of members at his death, and the other in memory of Brother Dossabhai Hormusji Cama who after a nine years' membership had resigned in 1872. Suitable resolutions were also passed recording regret at the deaths.

The Worshipful Master was Brother J. D. Wadia. The ceremony of his installation was performed by Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama again in his capacity of Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Western India by desire of the Provincial Grand Master, who was also present. Brother Cama at this meeting also conferred upon the Worshipful Master and his substitute and depute the installed Master's degree which had then been only recently sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, upon the personal recommendation made by the Provincial Grand Master Brother Morland while he was there, though it appears it had been repeatedly and for a long time before been proposed but without avail.

This year however was lucky in attracting back to the fold as rejoining members Brothers D. F. Karaka, F. D. Bahadurji, A. J. Bhajiwalla and Hormusji Dadabhai. There was a further accession of one initiate, *viz.*, Dinsha Bomanji Vakil, and one joining member, *viz.*, Brother Sorabji Jamsetji Mehta of Lodge Rising Sun. Against this increase, there were two resignations and one death.

There was only one initiation during the whole year. Lectures were delivered on the tracing boards by Brother R. C. Nadirshaw and one interesting lecture on "5 pointed stars" was delivered by Brother D. R. Chichgar.

For the first time in the annals of Freemasonry in Bombay and for the matter of that in India, on the 21st of March this year was celebrated a festival under the name of "The Jamshedi Navroz Masonic Festival," under the auspices of the lodge and the three other native lodges then working in Bombay. The idea of holding the festival originated with Brother K. R. Cama and had suggested itself to him from the annual celebration of the festival of the Vernal Equinox by the French Masons called "The Vernal Equinox Fête" of which he knew. Brother Cama read a discourse on the occasion and therein he showed how the festival notwithstanding any external appearance to the contrary and the general belief that it was peculiarly appropriate to the Parsees alone was a truly masonic one though promulgated under the novel designation which was then applied to it for the first time. The discourse was afterwards printed and published for the use of the subscribers to enable them the better to discuss and digest the matters therein contained. It was stated therein that it was King Jamshed, the second monarch of the old Peshdanian dynasty, who introduced the Solar year in the ancient Persian Calendar and ordained that the first day of it, namely 21st March, should be kept perpetually fixed at the Vernal Equinox when the Sun enters the first point of the sign Aeries of the Zodiac, when spring sets in and all nature looks regenerated and reawakened from its long winter sleep, and that that practice was continued regularly for ages till the downfall of the ancient Persian Empire and the extinction of the power of the ancient Persian race brought on a temporary interruption, for the conquerors of the land reckoned no Solar year in their Calendar but

counted upon the moon and the Jamshedi Navroz consequently ceased to be a national holiday till another monarch who ascended the throne of modern Persia ordained his subjects on a memorable Vernal Equinox day to begin a new era in his name from that day and the Jamshedi Navroz festival became again a national one in Persia with this difference, however, that as it was introduced by the Sultan of Persia it was styled the Sultani Navroz in place of the Jamshedi Navroz. It was further stated that the Jamshedi Navroz had relation with Freemasonry in that Freemasonry enjoined its professors to study nature and sciences, including the science of astronomy, which laid down the Vernal and Autumnal Equinoxes and the summer and winter solstices as accurate turning points of the weather, the Vernal Equinox, being the most marked as being the very first quarter and that high festivals were held to celebrate these turning points and in a special and eminent manner by Freemasons from the earliest ages, that in France all the seasonal festivals were celebrated by their proper names and on their own proper days by the Masonic fraternity as laid down in the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Orient of France, under which the Vernal Equinox was celebrated by all the Chapters, the Autumnal Equinox by the High Grades, Encamped, Councils, etc., and both the solstices by the Blue Lodges, that in Ireland the Masonic year as regards the proceedings of the Supreme Grand Council commenced under the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland at the Vernal Equinox or 21st March, and that under the Constitutions of Royal Arch Masonry Grand Office-bearers were elected and installed on the Vernal Equinox day and the Office-bearers of the subordinate Chapters on the Autumnal Equinox day. Lastly it was shown in the discourse that Blue Lodges which had the solstices were always dedicated to the two Saints, *viz.*, St. John the

Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, the Patron Saints of Blue Masonry, and that the festivals of these Saints fell, of one, on 24th June in the Summer Solstice and of the other on 27th December in the Winter Solstice, that installation meetings of all lodges were held on those days or as near as possible thereto, and that the Grand Lodge of Scotland used to have a grand festival on Saint John the Baptist's Day until it was decided at a quarterly communication held on 13th April 1837 to celebrate the annual election not on that day but on the 30th November, the birthday of St. Andrew, the titular Saint of Scotland.

In this connection it may be noted here that under the old By-laws of Lodge Rising Star the Master was installed on St. John the Evangelist's Day and the members were enjoined to hold a special convivial meeting in each year to celebrate the anniversary of that Saint.

The Provincial Grand Master had intimated to all the lodges this year that they should have a banner of their own to represent them at the Provincial Grand Lodge and as an established custom all Blue Lodges under the Sun were required to have their banners. The lodge therefore commissioned Brother Murzban, who was then shortly proceeding to England, to have a banner made there.

In this year's report of the Grand Lodge it was stated that Lodge Rising Star was very admirably managed and was in a most flourishing condition both as regards members and funds and was the premier Native Lodge.

1875.—Brother R. J. Nadirshaw was the Worshipful Master in the year 1875. This year was a memorable one for the lodge, as it was for the whole of India. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was on a visit to India and during his stay in Bombay laid the foundation stone of the Prince's Dock on 11th November 1875 according to Masonic rites and ceremonies. His Royal Highness was the

Grand Master of the United Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England and Patron of Scottish Freemasonry, and an address signed by Right Worshipful Brother Henry Morland as the head of the Scottish Lodges in India and by Worshipful Brother James Gibbs as the District Grand Master, E. C., was presented on the same day to his Royal Highness on behalf of the G. L. A., S. F. I. and the District Grand Lodge, and the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of all the lodges working in Bombay under the English and Scottish banners. A Committee had been formed to conduct the ceremony and Lodge Rising Star had the honour of being represented thereon by Brothers Jehangir Gustadji and Hormusji Dada-bhai. The lodge had also the rare honour and privilege of being allowed to present the Burne's medal to His Royal Highness. It had been voted in advance of His Royal Highness' arrival upon Brother K. R. Cama's motion and a Committee was appointed consisting of this Brother and the Worshipful Master and Brothers Murzban, P. M. Mehta and J. D. Wadia for the purpose of carrying out the object. Through the very kind offices of the Grand Master, Brother Morland, the medal was presented to His Royal Highness at the foundation stone ceremony of the Prince's Dock. It was ornamented by a design prepared by Brother Murzban representing His Royal Highness' plumes and two figures, one of a Parsi lady, and the other of a Hindu lady, and encased in a box specially prepared by Brother J. D. Wadia. The Grand Master said at the time of the presentation, "Your Royal Highness, the Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the first Native Lodge in India, having been established in 1843, has hitherto been honoured by the Grand Masters of England and Scotland receiving their Fundator's medal and I have been deputed by the brethren to request on this occasion your gracious acceptance of this medal" and His

Royal Highness was graciously pleased to say "I have the greatest pleasure in accepting it."

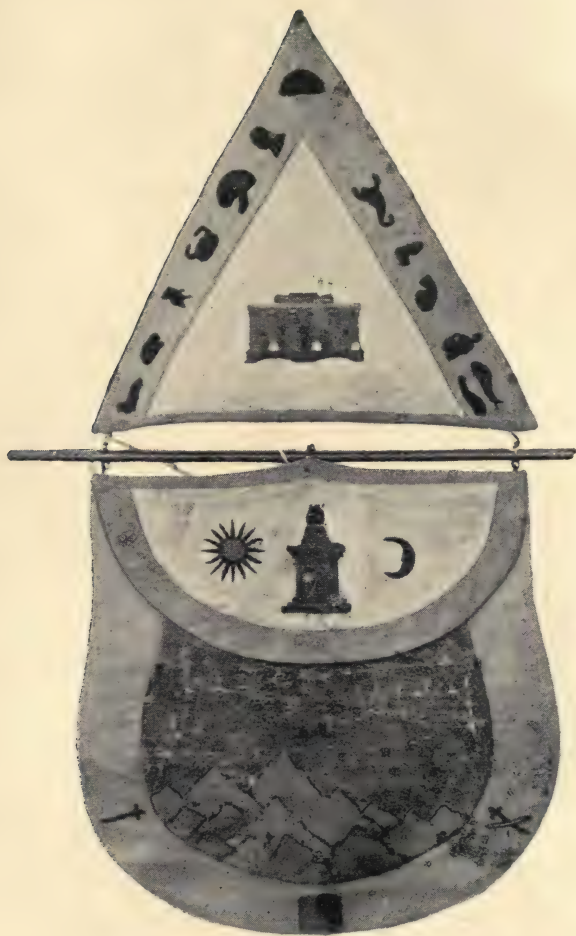
Brother James Gibbs, the District Grand Master of Bombay and its territories and one of the Judges of the High Court of Bombay, who was an affiliated member ever since 1847, was elected an honorary member this year.

The banner of the lodge arrived this year and cost Rupees 164. It is of an unique design. It consists of two parts, an upper and a lower one, which are held together by a brass rod. The upper part is in the shape of a triangle, the lower one in that of an apron. On the two sides of the triangle are depicted the 12 signs of the Zodiac and within it is the figure of a temple in Persepolis. On the flap of the apron are shown the Sun and the Moon with the altar between them, emblematic of the three greater lights in Masonry. In the body of the apron is a representation of Mt. Elburz and on the border are the volume of the Sacred Law lying open with an unsheathed sword and its scabbard on one side, and a dagger on the other. The apron is rounded off at the lower ends, after the shape of an apron said to have been found from among the ruins of Persepolis.

From an inventory *inter alia* of the Lodge clothing taken this year it appears that up to this time sashes still formed part of it.

It was this year that, under a commission issued in the early part of the last year, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the G. L. A. S. F. I. was inaugurated and Brother Morland as the head of the constitution assumed the title of G. M. A. S. F. I. Brother P. M. Mehta presented to the Grand Master, on behalf of the lodge, an address voted to him by the lodge congratulating him on the dignity conferred on him by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Right Worshipful Brother P. M. Mehta was presented with a Past Master's clothing and jewel.



Lodge Banner



There were three initiations, two passings, and two raisings and lectures were delivered including a lecture on ballot by Brother D. R. Chichgar which was ordered to be published.

Three new members were enrolled, *viz.*, Jugjivan Atmaram, Rahimtulla Mahomed Sayani (Solicitor) and Dr. Atmaram Pandurang. Brother Pestanji Dajibhai Unwalla rejoined while Brother Sherif Salemahomed resigned the lodge.

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## CHAPTER XXII.

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1876.—The next year 1876, during which Brother Darasha D. Reporter was the Master, brought in eight new members, of whom three were affiliates and the rest initiates. The affiliates were Brother Bomansha Cowasji of Lodge Eastern Star and Nusserwanji Pestanji Cama and Nowroji Pestanji Cama of Lodge Marquis of Dalhousie, London. The initiates were Fazulbhai Casumbhai Gangji, Dr. Succaram Arjoon, Cursetji Manekji Sett, Moreshwar Atmaram Tarkhad and Krishnaji Laxman. Against this increase there were, however, four resignations, *viz.*, of Brothers Dossabhai Framji Karaka (again on account of ill health), Brother Maneckji Cursetji Bomanji Cursetji Ashburner and Manekji Ratanji Reporter. Brother Maneckji Cursetji was, immediately after his resignation, unanimously elected an honorary member of the lodge in recognition of the signal services rendered by him.

Brother Bomanji Cursetji Ashburner or Bhandupwalla had joined the lodge in 1870, and had received his first degree in that year and was passed during this year. Before he could be raised an unpleasant incident happened. This Brother had published a book on Freemasonry in which he presumed to make insinuations against its principles and to criticise the conduct of the brethren and had made use of words such as mockery, disgrace, etc., in relation to the conduct of the brethren in lodge assembled. Brother P. M. Mehta brought up the matter at a lodge meeting and made a vehement attack on the book and its author. Brother Bomanji was present and said he

was quite unprepared, for an explanation there and then but would give one at the next meeting, and begged the conferring of the sublime degree to be deferred and was allowed to withdraw. He subsequently sent in his resignation instead of an explanation, but as it was couched in unmasonic terms it was not accepted and the charges made by Brother Mehta were referred to the Standing Committee for report. That body in due course submitted its opinion that Brother Bomanji having failed to render any explanation as promised and the statements in his book being unfounded, thoroughly vague and undefined and being extremely childish and frivolous, it would be undignified to attach any importance to the book and to take any proceedings against him and recommended that as he had already expressed his intention to sever his connection with the lodge his resignation should be accepted if couched in proper masonic language. Subsequently that Brother sent in another resignation, and it was accepted. This was the second instance in which the lodge took notice of a Brother's unmasonic conduct and compelled him to sever his connection for all times. This Brother had previously presented to the lodge a handsomely framed portrait of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales which was in due course hung up in the hall.

There were four initiations, three passings and two raisings, and some lectures were delivered by the Worshipful Master on "Brotherly Love" and "Life and Death."

An inventory of the lodge library was taken, with the result that nineteen valuable books were found missing.

Brother K. R. Cama was appointed by the lodge life-member on its behalf of the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Fund in accordance with the By-laws of that fund.

A Past Master's jewel and clothing were voted to Brother R. J. Nadirsha which, at his request, was in the following year substituted by a Fundator's medal.

The Navroz festival was held also during this year and the lodge took part in it.

It is recorded that at a meeting held on 5th February, the Worshipful Master signed diplomas of two brethren, Lientenant Riddie of the S. S. Raleigh and Brother Schull, and one or two other European brethren certifying to their identity; they were admitted into the lodge that evening as visiting brethren.

Brother Darasha Reporter was a capable and an earnest Master and his regime, which was otherwise full of success and happiness, was marred by two unpleasant incidents, which not only brought him into disfavour with one of the best friends of the lodge, namely, the Grand Master, Brother Morland, but also threw the lodge, though for a very brief space of time, under a cloud from which happily it came forth again with its former lustre and credit untarnished.

The first incident was the writing of a letter by the Worshipful Master to the Grand Master, in which the latter's non-attendance at the installation of the former, after being twice requested by him personally to attend, was considered a small matter, and the ceremony was stated to have gone off equally well. This was considered offensive by the Grand Master.

The second incident was connected with the foundation of Lodge Islam. At that time besides Lodge Rising Star there were three other native lodges working in Bombay, namely, Lodge Rising Sun and Lodge Eastern Star under the English banner and Lodge Cyrus under the Scottish jurisdiction. Brother Morland, who had for some time then an intention of founding a Mahomedan Lodge, granted a warrant for the establishment of Lodge Islam for Mahomedans. The existing native lodges were not consulted in the matter. The subject was considered as one of great importance and affecting the interests of Freemasonry amongst natives generally, and such as

should be taken up by all the native lodges in co-operation. Some members considered that a representation should be submitted to the Grand Master by all the lodges but on Brother K. R. Cama pointing out that the Grand Master had supreme control and that steps should be taken in a regular and temperate manner the idea was abandoned. Brother Cama then himself carried on correspondence with the Grand Master and also argued the matter with him at personal interviews and detailed all the circumstances and the purport of the correspondence at an emergent meeting called for the purpose, at which the following resolution was passed ;—" That although this lodge is of opinion that no necessity for opening an additional native lodge in Bombay has been proved and the opinions of the existing native lodges were not invited, as was desirable, before granting dispensation for such new lodge, still considering that such dispensation has already been granted and such new lodge has by the name of Islam already commenced work under such dispensation—this lodge deems it conducive to the interests of Freemasonry to welcome and co-operate with such new lodge and trusts that such new lodge would co-operate with this and the other native lodges in Bombay in striving to carry out the grand design of Freemasonry in general and to maintain the character, position and reputation of our Holy Order in the estimation of the native community by enforcing judicious and discriminate management in the lodge and exemplary conduct in the individual members thereof."

One member thought that the correspondence between the Grand Master and Brother Cama showed that there was nothing like a guarantee that in future full inquiries would be made before granting a dispensation, and another concurring in that view expressed the opinion that the establishment of a sectarian lodge was subver-

sive of the noble principles of Freemasonry and that it was absurd to found a lodge for a particular sect exclusively. Copies of the whole proceedings of the evening were forwarded to the Grand Master and Lodges Rising Sun, Eastern Star, Cyrus and Islam.

Brother Morland attended at the next meeting at which the proceedings were confirmed, but as an honorary member, and acknowledged the moderation of the view taken by the lodge and that the resolution was a very commendable one but he was much offended by the remarks about there being no guarantee for the future and the absurdity of a sectarian lodge and at the proceedings being published by being transmitted not only to the new lodge but also to the lodges under the sister constitution. Thereupon correspondence passed between the Grand Master and the Worshipful Master personally in which the Grand Master called upon the Worshipful Master to recall the minutes and to strike off certain portions which he considered disrespectful, and the Worshipful Master declined evidently to do it by reason of which the Grand Master was much put out. After this a summons convening a lodge meeting was issued which the Grand Master considered was as regards one item of business specified thereon in very objectionable terms, and he therefore in his official capacity attended the meeting with his Grand Lodge Officers to see that item discussed in his own presence. That item had evidently reference to the correspondence between the Grand Master and the Worshipful Master of the lodge, and the Worshipful Master considering that it would be indelicate to discuss the matter in the presence of the Grand Master and also as the hour was far advanced did not proceed with it. The Grand Master objected to this and made certain remarks imputing intentional delay, whereupon Brother P. M. Mehta spoke strongly on the right of the lodge to discuss matters of importance

after its own method and at its own convenience and claimed for the lodge the right of free discussion and supported the Worshipful Master in his action, stating that the lodge had always been loyal and obedient to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master then spoke at length, justifying his action and narrating all that had passed between him and the Worshipful Master and made certain remarks doubting the loyalty of the lodge, and after leaving on the altar the Fundator's medal which the lodge had presented to him retired from the meeting with his Officers. The remarks made by him about the lodge were deemed quite unmerited and it was resolved to hold an emergent meeting to consider them.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

1877 —The year 1877 thus opened ominously but by wise and tactful means adopted by the Master, Brother R. M. Patel, the consideration of the subject which had so much excited the members in the previous year was deferred from time to time and ultimately allowed to drop. The correspondence between the Grand Master and the Immediate Past Master was more than once called for and attempts were made, and not without reason, by some members to have it read and discussed but the Immediate Past Master was advised to make up matters which had become so personal between him and the Grand Master and to avoid further friction. Wiser counsels prevailed with the result that he did close the matter very soon with the Grand Master to the latter's satisfaction and the correspondence was not brought out and no discussion took place thereon. The Grand Master thereafter sent back for the Fundator's medal and very shortly afterwards attended a meeting at which he installed Brother R. M. Patel in the Eastern Chair with the medal bedecking his breast and took occasion to say that he was very proud to instal a member of an old family and one of literary fame as the Master of a lodge whose loyalty was unswerving and was composed of such a large number of members from the different professions the Right Worshipful Master had named (*viz.*, the Bench, the Bar, Engineering, Medicine and Commerce) and added that he was delighted to have been again present in the lodge and wished them every happiness and prosperity. He

also on a subsequent occasion when he attended as an Honorary Member suggested that a Past Master's jewel should be presented to Brother Darasha Reporter (about which there had been some discussion, of which however he was not aware) and the jewel was in due course voted to that Brother.

A Past Master's jewel and clothing were presented to Brother Jamsetji Dhanjibhai Wadia and the Fundator's medal was presented to Brother R. J. Nadirshaw.

Brother Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama was appointed Substitute Master this year and therefore vacated the post of Treasurer which he had held for fourteen years, and a Treasurer's jewel was voted to him in further recognition of his valuable services as Treasurer.

The Naoroz festival was held also during this year and the lodge took part in it.

The numerical strength decreased this year. There was an addition of only one member while there were five resignations. The new member was Mr. Ardesir Merwanji Sett and the resigning members were Brothers F. R. Vicaji, E. C. Jussawalla, F. N. Sett, B. D. Patel and H. A. Suntoke. The degree work during the year consisted of two initiations, five passings and five raisings. The finances were in a healthy condition. From November of this year the lodge removed from the Gowalia Tank Road building and began to assemble in a bungalow in Nesbit Lane, Mazagon, known as the Nawab's Bungalow.

1878.—The lodge was presided over in 1878 by Brother Hormusji Dadabhai. In all twelve regular meetings and nine Standing Committee meetings were held and there were two initiations, two passings and two raisings and some lectures were given. Three new members were enrolled, *viz.*, Dr. Temulji Bhicaji Nari-man (who is still on the rolls) and Hormusji Shapurji (Solicitor) as initiates and Right Worshipful Brother

Mackintosh Balfour as an Honorary Member. Brother. Morland had resigned the office of Grand Master last year and Brother Balfour, who was his deputy, was now holding that exalted office.

In compliance with a request made by the Worshipful Master of Lodge Mooltan, the Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star presented at a regular meeting a complimentary letter received by him to a Brother of the name of Dadabhai Manekji, Past Senior Warden of that lodge, which was voted to him with a jewel by that lodge in recognition of his services to it.

This year also the lodge took part in the Naoroz festival. A sword was presented to the lodge by Brother Sorabji Jamsetji Mehta.

The Past Master's jewel and clothing voted to Brother R. M. Patel were duly presented to him.

The lodge was, however, very unfortunate in losing three good members, two of whom were its very energetic and useful Past Masters, *viz.*, Brothers R. C. Bahadurji and R. J. Nadirshaw, at the commencement of the year, and the third was Brother A. M. Sett, who was but only a year-old Mason and died when the year closed.

Funeral service was held in honour of the Past Masters at a regular meeting which was attended by a very large gathering, including the Grand Master and the Past Grand Master, Brother Morland, and resolutions were passed recording the loss sustained by the lodge by the death of these two warm-hearted friends who had endeared themselves to the brethren by their devoted faithfulness to the principles of our noble Order and won their great esteem and respect and extolling their attainments and virtues, and offering condolence to their widows and children, and the resolutions were directed to be published in the *Bombay Masonic Standard*. Very touching observations were made on this occasion by Brothers Mackintosh and Morland and some excellent

and appropriate speeches were made by some of the brethren on the separation from these two amiable and distinguished Past Masters, and the record shows that the scene was one which impressed the brethren with the solemn feelings produced by parting by death on the human mind and by the splendid teaching we receive when the sublime degree is worked. It would be impossible now to portray such a scene which only those who witnessed it could appreciate.

Resolutions were also passed recording the regret of the lodge at the death of its very young and unassuming member, Brother A. M. Sett, and tendering sympathy to his widow and children.

1879.—The next year the lodge was again presided over by Brother Hormusji Dadabhai and was prosperous both numerically and financially. Eight new members joined while only two resigned. The new members were Hormusji Adarji Kanga, Sorabsha Dorabsha Doctor, Temulji Bhikhaji Engineer, Pestonji Muncherji Nicholson and Nusserwanji Merwanji Panday, all initiates, and Brothers Nanabhai Ratanji Chichgar, Cooverji Cowasji Jussawalla and Nanaji Narayen Waslekar who were affiliated. The last named Brother belonged to Lodge Fidelity No. 430, Dukenfeld, near Manchester. There were five initiations, three passings and one raising and some lectures were delivered. The resigning members were Brothers F. D. Bahadurji and Dr. R. N. Khory.

Two very pleasing functions were performed during the year. Worshipful Brother the Hon'ble Mr. Justice James Gibbs, who was the District Grand Master of Bombay and its territories, and had controlled for some years the destinies of English Freemasonry and during whose rule the relationship and co-operation between the English and Scotch Lodges had become closer and freer than ever before and who had in a great measure effectuated an arrangement under which the bodies under both juris-

dictions were then meeting in one and the same building, retired from service and left the shores of Bombay. Before his departure, however, a farewell demonstration and banquet were given in his honour by the District Grand Lodge as also by the Grand Lodge A. S. F. I., in which the Lodge Rising Star was invited to join and did so. But as that distinguished Brother was a member of the lodge ever since 1847, first as an affiliated and latterly as an Honorary Member and had always taken an abiding interest in its welfare, the lodge presented to him an address at a farewell meeting held on 1st March which was numerously attended. (For copies of the address and Brother Gibb's reply to it see Appendix P.) He spoke in terms of very high praise and with a sense of pride at having been connected with the Star for over 30 years, and said "he hoped to hand down the address to his children after him and possibly to his children's children, so that it would at all events serve as a memorial to inform them that their father and possibly their ancestor was a member of Lodge Rising Star, so highly he valued the membership of this lodge."

The second pleasing function was the conferring by Brother D. R. Chichgar as officiating Worshipful Master at a regular meeting of the lodge held on 1st November of the installed Master's degree on two brethren who had served as Masters of Lodge Felix of Aden, No. 355 S. C., namely, Right Worshipful Brothers Charles Mounstuart Erskine and Pestonji Rustomji Toorkey. This was done in response to a request made by the Grand Secretary. It was indeed a matter of congratulation that this lodge should have been elected to perform the function. Brother Erskine on that occasion made a small donation to the charity funds of the lodge.

The Committee to revise the By-laws which was appointed in the year 1873 did not appear to have done anything and a fresh Committee was therefore appointed

for the same purpose consisting of the Worshipful Master and Brothers K. R. Cama, D. R. Chichgar, R. M. Patel, H. M. Chichgar and M. M. Bhowmugree. This Committee revised the Bye-laws which were circulated amongst the brethren for consideration before being brought up for adoption,

It was resolved this year that the Treasurer's accounts and the quarterly audits should show the endowment of Rupees five hundred made by the late Brother M. M. Sethna separate from the other charity funds.

It was also resolved that it should be lawful for the Right Worshipful Master to appoint a Brother Mason to the office of Organist of the lodge and such Brother should during the tenure of his office be an *ex-officio* member of the lodge and be exempted from payment of the lodge dues but should have no right to vote. This was done with the object of providing music during the working of the sublime degree in order to make it all the more impressive. Brother K. N. Kabraji was appointed in due course to this honorary post.

Amongst the charities dispensed this year was a donation made to the fund raised by the Italian Consul at Bombay for the relief of the poor and distressed inhabitants of districts round about the provinces of Mentowa, Ferrara Modena, in the Island of Sicily, who had been reduced to great privations by the overflowing of certain rivers and the violent eruption of Mount Etna.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

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1880.—Brother Hormusji M. Chichgar was elected Worshipful Master for the next year by a majority of votes. The election was by mistake made while the lodge was open in the first lodge and this being contrary to the Constitutions it had to be validated by a special dispensation from the Grand Master.

Brother Hormusji Dadabhai who had very efficiently worked the lodge during the preceding two years had also to work it during the year 1880, as the Worshipful Master was for the greater part of it unable to attend the meetings owing to illness. This worthy Brother was voted a Past Master's jewel and clothing for his services.

Brother C. N. Cama received this year a further token of the appreciation of his services to the lodge in the shape of a gold chain and pencil presented to him by the unanimous vote of the brethren.

The Naoroze festival took place also this year and the active management thereof had devolved on the lodge according to turn. The origin of the festival and its commencement were both identified with the lodge, and this time all past members of the lodges were also invited to meet and renew old fellowship of brethren in the Craft.

A Brother named Pestonji Sorabji Anderson, Master Mason of Lodge Western Star No. 1049 of Cannanore, was allowed to sign at a lodge meeting a certificate from the Grand Lodge of England testifying to his being a regularly made Master Mason. It appears that this Brother

was an habitual resident of Bombay, and while on a short trip to Cannanore on business in the beginning of the year 1878 got himself admitted in the lodge. He was subsequently in 1879 proposed in Lodge Rising Star but his affiliation was adjourned for consideration. After, however, this certificate from the Grand Lodge was signed it was taken up but did not meet with favour.

It was resolved this year to buy a new set of working tools as the set the lodge had was lost.

The Bye-laws of the lodge which had been revised by the last Sub-committee appointed for the purpose and had been already circulated amongst the brethren were discussed, amended and finally passed at five meetings and were subsequently printed in the following year. It was now that the names "Bearer of the Sacred Volume" and "Organist" were substituted for "The Zend Avesta Bearer" and "Director of Music" respectively.

The existing Bye-laws provided that the anniversary meeting should always be held on 15th December, that being the anniversary day of the foundation of the lodge, but somehow or other on grounds of convenience the custom had not been followed for some years. From this year again the Bye-law was strictly followed and all anniversary meetings were held on 15th December of each year.

An evil had by this time grown to an intolerable extent and had even attracted the attention of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, namely, the habit with some Masons of deriving all the advantages of a membership of the lodge by frequent visits without belonging to any particular lodge and paying for such privileges. Under the existing Bye-laws at the time, no Freemason who was not a subscribing member of some lodge, could be permitted to visit the lodge more than three times a year. This Bye-law was substituted by the Sub-com-

mittee by another providing that no Freemason, residing in Bombay but not a subscribing member to some lodge, should be permitted or invited to visit the lodge more than twice a year. The Worshipful Master thought the Bye-law was altogether unnecessary as it constituted an encroachment on a right which was the Master's absolute prerogative and besides was in conflict with the Constitutions and spirit of the Order which made it unmasonic to close the portals of a lodge to anyone seeking admission. The brethren thought the clause was congruous with the spirit of the Constitutions and landmarks of the Order and was necessary for checking the evil. Ultimately the Worshipful Master consented to the Bye-law being passed making its final retention in the book of Bye-laws dependent on the verdict of the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India to whom he proposed referring the question as to whether the clause was an encroachment on the Master's prerogative and whether the words "permitted" or "invited" made the clause inconsistent with either the landmarks of the Order or the Constitutions, and which of the two words should be retained.

Under another Bye-law one-fourth of all fees and not only of the monthly subscriptions was to be set apart for charity. This was an advance upon the then existing Bye-law on the point under which all degree fees went wholly to the general funds for the maintenance of the lodge itself. A Bye-law was also passed giving power to the Worshipful Master to adjourn a regular meeting, should the quality or nature of the business to be transacted thereat render an adjournment necessary, to any day prior to the assembling of the succeeding regular meeting. This was passed in order that a regular meeting instead of being held on the day fixed for it by the Bye-laws might be held on any other day that might suit the convenience of the brethren, for

it many times happened that in January and June members were usually away from Bombay and the attendances were thin.

The finances of the lodge were in a prosperous condition when the year ended and there were two initiations, four passings and three raisings. Two new members were admitted, namely, Manekji Hormusji Maju and Rustom K. R. Cama, the latter of whom was introduced by his venerable father and has, following in his wake so far, been a subscribing member of the lodge these thirty years, and Brother Sheriff Salemahomed rejoined but against this addition of three there were four resignations, namely, of the Brothers Dollymeherji and Sorabji Jamsetji Mehta and Succaram Arjoon. Amongst the office-bearers this year was Brother Atmaram Pandurang, appointed as Bhagwat-Gita bearer.

1881.—Brother H. M. Chichgar was re-elected Worshipful Master for the year 1881 by a majority of votes.

The second year of this Brother's rule saw the numerical strength of the lodge still further decreased for only one new member was admitted, namely, Brother Cursetji Cowasji Mehta, while three members resigned, namely, Brothers H. A. Kanga, F. C. Ganji and Nowroji Dajibhai Unwalla.

The finances however remained steady.

The degree work done consisted of one initiation, one passing and three raisings, and a lecture was delivered by Brother Darasha R. Chichgar on certain chemical facts illustrating the several mysteries of the science of Freemasonry.

The Bye-laws of the lodge which were revised last year were approved by the Grand Lodge with certain variations and passed and printed during this year. The Grand Lodge had disapproved the Bye-law giving the Worshipful Master power to adjourn a regular meeting

to any day prior to the day fixed for the next regular meeting on the ground that in Masonry it would be unlawful to adjourn a regular meeting fixed by the Bye-laws, but that the Master could call emergent meetings for considering any business remaining unfinished at a regular meeting.

A further Bye-law was therefore passed during this year empowering the Worshipful Master to summon the January and June meetings on any convenient day instead of the regular meeting days fixed for the rest of the year.

The clause relating to visiting brethren was approved by the Grand Lodge, modified only so far as it cut down two visits to one visit only during the year, and the ground given was that a non-affiliated Mason residing in Bombay for more than twelve months without joining some lodge would violate his obligation.

Some Bye-laws were amended during the year, one of them being that relating to the allocation of the fees between the general and the charity funds which now again provided that one-fourth of the monthly subscriptions only should be set apart for charity and the other relating to the particulars to be mentioned in a summons convening a meeting regarding a proposed candidate by which the age and occupation of the candidate were also required to be specified.

Besides the Bye-laws one other matter occupied the attention of the lodge and was discussed at several meetings both of the lodge and of the Standing Committee.

The vacant land which had been presented by Brother Nowroji Nanabhai Framji to the lodge and had been conveyed to the Trustees for the lodge on 3rd May 1870, and was then estimated to be of the value of Rs. 16,000 had been yielding at first an income of about Rs. 55 to 60 per annum, then of Rs. 115 to 120, and latterly about

Rs. 150 per annum, realised by the sale of the right of collecting grass grown thereon and picketing horses imported from Kabul. It was low-lying land situate near the Byculla Flats and more than once offers had been received for the purchase thereof at from eight annas to eleven annas per square yard but the lodge had not deemed it advisable to sell it. The Municipality had at this time served the Trustees with a requisition to fill in the land and the cost of filling in was estimated at about Rs. 2,000. The Trustees had no funds in their hands and the income derived from the date of the trust deed till this time had been utilized by mistake contrary to the provisions of the deed in the general expenditure of the lodge instead of being accumulated for the purposes of the contemplated Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall and the Trustees had no power to raise moneys nor had the lodge power according to its Bye-laws to lend money. The question therefore had to be seriously considered and a Sub-Committee consisting of the Trustees and Brothers H. M. Chichgar and Hormusjee Dadabhai was appointed to consider the trust deed and to frame a scheme for submission to the lodge. This Sub-Committee being of opinion (in which the Standing Committee concurred) that unless the lodge passed a resolution not to build a Masonic Hall on the land, no sale could be made, a resolution to that effect was brought forward. Thereafter a printed copy of the trust deed was circulated amongst the members to enable them to consider whether or not it was advisable to sell the land and whether the lodge should consider the resolution before it came to a decision to sell. The resolution was then brought up and discussed but the members were not all of one mind. In the meantime the question of erecting a Masonic Temple for all bodies under the English and Scottish banners was it seems reaching a stage of completion and the District Grand Master, Brother Tyrell Leith, who

was present at the last meeting at which the resolution was discussed, suggested to the Worshipful Master that the lodge should postpone the discussion thereon and the suggestion was adopted by the lodge and the resolution was for the time being abandoned. It appears that subsequently at a Grand Lodge Convocation held on 29th October 1881, it was resolved on the motion of the Grand Master to form a Joint Stock Company for the construction of a Masonic Hall to be called "The Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall" and some arrangement was made for handing over the land to the Company to build a Temple thereon. At this Convocation, Brother J. D. Wadia was appointed Honorary Grand Master Depute and Brother D. R. Chichgar was appointed Grand Senior Warden and a Committee was appointed consisting of Brothers K. R. Cama Murzban, D. R. Chichgar and R. V. Reid to draw up Articles of Association of the proposed Company.

While, however, this question was vexing the brethren a proposition was also made and discussed for investing the lodge funds in the purchase or mortgage of real estate in the City of Bombay with the object of enabling the lodge to lend moneys thereout to the Trustees of the land in case it became necessary to do so for defraying the cost of the filling in of the land. This proposition was opposed by Brother P. M. Mehta on the solid ground that the lodge funds should be of a permanent character and kept free from all risks, being made to last as long as the Sun and Moon endured and should not be hazarded in investments of a speculative character for there were always fluctuations of a serious and grave character in the value of real properties. This proposition was also thereupon dropped.

The jewel voted to Brother Darasha Reporter was presented to him at the close of this year and a Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother H. M. Chichgar,

who had proved a very energetic and painstaking master.

It seemed to be the practice of the lodge to raise the Substitute-Master to the throne, but this year the Brother who filled that office came forward most modestly and argued that owing to his youth and inexperience he should be passed over and his wish was complied with, and Brother Khory, who for several years now had the control of the finance department, was elected to fill the chair.

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## CHAPTER XXV.

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1882.—This year there was only one initiation, one passing and one raising, and one new member, Mr. Nowrosji Maneckji Contractor, was admitted while three Brothers, namely, Brothers F. R. Vicaji Burjorji, P. Dollimeherji and H. N. Saklatwalla rejoined. Against this there were four resignations, namely of Brothers P. M. Mehta, C. C. Jussawall, J. J. Panthakey and Dr. Atmaram Pandurang. Brother Saklatwalla died within a short time after he had rejoined.

The financial condition was much in the same state. The Jamshedi Naoroze festival was celebrated this year also, and a gratifying circumstance of the celebration was that a good number of European brethren joined in it.

A very laudable movement was set afoot this year by and under the auspices of the Grand Lodge. A resolution was passed by the Grand Lodge on 22nd April 1882 upon a proposition of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, seconded by Brother Henry Morland, that Brother Maneckji Cursetji should be requested to sit for his portrait, and that it be hung in the Freemasons' Hall, and a Committee consisting of Brothers Morland Jamshedji Dhunjibhoy Wadia, Darasha R. Chichgar, M. C. Murzban, I. Y. Lang, E. R. Freeborn and others was appointed to carry out the objects.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master in moving the proposition said :—

“ In our venerable and esteemed friend you see the father, the pioneer of Freemasonry among the Native

gentlemen of India, the great social reformer who has made it possible for all of us, of different castes and creeds, to meet together and labour in the cause of Freemasonry. The difficulties he experienced and surmounted are known to many of you. How great they were you can fully appreciate when you remember the extent to which caste prejudices prevailed, and that only a short time ago we were able to admit Hindus to the light of Masonry. Now we are a happy family and we have to thank Brother Maneckji very much for the stage at which we have arrived. He was made a Mason in Paris, and here in Bombay he was a contemporary of and collaborator with the late well-known and distinguished Brother the Chevalier Burnes. Brother Maneckji had from those days, long gone by, laboured steadily and zealously in the cause of our Craft. Even now, in his old age, his well-known features and costume are seen in our assemblies more regularly than those of many younger brethren who consider themselves earnest workers. Does not our Brother deserve all honour for introducing what I may call "Freetrade" in Freemasonry, and what is more, Freetrade in female education, at least on this side of India? The interest which our friend takes in the Alexandra Girls' School of which he was the founder,—the first of the kind for Native girls of all sects—is well known and it is part of his life. The barriers of caste are being gently put aside and I venture to say that Masonry in India is giving to the brethren an education as necessary and useful as that which can be obtained in schools and colleges. Brethren, I wish Brother Maneckji's portrait to be hung up here as proof that the Grand Lodge knows how to honour those who deserve honour at its hands, and that in after years when he shall have passed away the picture may be pointed out as that of the Brother who first introduced Freemasonry among the Natives of India, who following faithfully the teach-

ings of the Craft was honoured, esteemed and respected by his fellow-brethren."

This was a fitting memorial of the Craft in recognition of the great and eminent services rendered by Brother Maneckji Cursetji, to the Masonic Order, more especially as the pioneer of Freemasonry to the natives of Western India, which deserved commemoration, and subscriptions were invited by a Special Committee consisting of Brother Morland and others appointed for the purpose from all the daughter lodges for the purpose of defraying the cost of the portrait. The lodge joined in and contributed to the memorial fund but being of opinion that a better memorial than that was desirable it suggested to the Grand Lodge that in addition to a portrait such a Scholarship prize or medal in connection with the Alexandra Native Girls' Institution in that Brother's name should be established as the funds to be subscribed for by all the lodges under the auspices of the Grand Lodge would permit in view of the connection he had with that Institution. Members also individually subscribed to the fund. Brother Maneckji Cursetji then gave a sitting and his portrait was presented subsequently at a Grand Lodge Convocation and hung in the Masonic Hall.

Brother K. R. Cama had brought forward a scheme for life-membership on payment of a sum of Rupees six hundred invested in Government Paper yielding 4 per cent. and a proposition was brought forward providing for same and that the sum so secured should be kept intact, the income only being used for the current expenses of the lodge. An amendment increasing the amount to Rupees one thousand two hundred was also brought forward by Brother D. R. Chichgar but was not seconded.

Brother Cama's view was that by a member paying a lump sum in composition of his monthly dues he would continue a member till his death and would not be induced at any time to resign or be compelled to do so in case of

distress or bad circumstances, while at the same time the lodge funds would acquire a permanency and continue to receive an income even after the member's death. But the proposition was not passed.

The lodge had by this time subscribed Rupees four hundred to the Scottish Benevolent Fund, being Rupees two hundred in its own name and Rupees hundred in the name of Brother K. R. Cama and Rupees hundred in the name of Brother Murzban and had become entitled to claim life-membership of the fund for itself and the two worthy Past Masters. The amounts of Rupees hundred each were not, however, allowed up to now to be credited in the names of Brothers Cama and Murzban but were credited in the name of the lodge. This was due to a misreading of the rule of this fund but at this time the point was cleared and the amounts were credited in the names of the said two Brothers and they became life-members of the fund in addition to the lodge being entitled also to a membership, and out of the other sum of Rupees two hundred a moiety was transferred into the name of Brother D. R. Chichgar, who also thus became a life-member and in order to entitle all the three brethren to sit on the Benevolent Fund Committee the lodge also agreed to pay annually the sum of Rupees eighteen out of the Charity Funds, being ten per cent. of their annual subscriptions on their behalf in accordance with the rules of that fund.

This year the lodge embarked into an inquiry into the unmasonic conduct of a mason who at one time was a member. It arose out of the libel case in which Brother M. C. Lungrana alias Munsookh was at that time convicted by the local Presidency Magistrate's Court of having defamed Brother K. N. Kabraji and a member of his family in a vile manner in his newspaper *The Satya Mitra*. Brother H. M. Chichgar laid a formal charge in writing and signed by him in the following terms:

“ That Brother Muncherji Cowasji Langrana, a former member of this lodge residing in the City of Bombay having, on the 4th day of July 1882, been convicted in due course of law of an offence under the Indian Penal Code, namely of having defamed Brother Kaikhosru N. Kabraji, the Honorary Organist of this lodge, and his family, I Hormusji Muncherji Chichgar, Immediate Past Master of this lodge, do upon the complaint of the said Brother Kaikhosru N. Kabraji, charge the said Brother Muncherji Cowasji Langrana with the commission of the said offence, the same being conduct unbecoming and unworthy of a Mason, and I claim that the said Brother Muncherji Cowasji Langrana may be tried and punished on the said charge according to law, As Witness my hand this second day of September 1882. ”

The indictment was then read in open lodge and Brother Hormusji cited several masonic authorities to show that a Mason though not a subscribing member of any lodge at the time of his masonic trial for a masonic offence could still be tried and punished by the lodge within whose geographical jurisdiction he resided, for he being once a Mason, always remained subject to the government of the Order and also masonic duties and obligations save those relating to lodge organisations and that the relation being one of a child to its parent, could never be dissolved except by an expulsion which was recognised as a masonic death and that a Mason whether affiliated or not could even after having undergone the penalty of the laws of his country be still tried by a lodge for the same offence and punished a second time. The authorities quoted were Paton's Jurisprudence, pp. 160, 342-3, 345-6 and 349 and Mackay's Jurisprudence, pp. 269 and 507 and the ancient installation charges in the time of King James II, and the regulations of the Order expressly prohibiting a Mason from showing a want of courtesy or kindness to the brethren, speaking calum-

niously of one behind his back, or in any other way attempting to injure him or doing any dishonour to the wife, daughter or sister of his Brother. The Lodge then unanimously decided to accept the charges as laid, and that the accused should be brought to trial.

The charges were then communicated by Brother Secretary to Brother Langrana by a letter which also called upon him to attend the lodge and answer the complaint at the lodge meeting at which it was to be inquired into, and the summons convening that meeting was also sent to the offending Brother and service of both the letter and summons was formally proved at that meeting. It was also shown that the regular time was allowed between the service of the charges and the time of trial. The summons was disobeyed so far as attendance was concerned, but a written statement was sent which was read to the lodge with copies of the *Satya Mitra* newspaper of the 10th and 17th September 1882, and a copy of the Magistrate's finding. In the written statement the accused demurred to the right of the lodge to try him and in the same breath defended himself by attempting to justify the libel, which he argued could be done before a masonic tribunal though he could not do it before a Court of Justice and further blamed the lodge for not taking any notice of certain attacks Brother Kabraji had made in his paper, the *Rast Goftar*, against him for some years past. The two newspapers and the Magistrate's finding were submitted in proof of two extenuating circumstances, namely, (1) that his Counsel had to leave in the middle of the case as he was made Advocate-General and (2) that certain witnesses for the prosecution were not cross-examined as he and his Counsel were under the belief that the case would be sent up to the High Court for trial.

Bro. Kabraji refuted the extenuating circumstances and the Magistrate's finding corroborated him, and the

lodge was of opinion that the explanation rendered was untruthful and if allowed would reflect on the Magistrate who tried the case and on British justice as well. Issues were then formally framed and the trial was duly proceeded with and several brethren took part in it and in the end Brother Langrana was found by the lodge guilty of the charge laid against him and resolutions were passed unanimously for reprimanding him for his unbecoming and unworthy conduct as a Mason and a Brother and expressing profound sympathy with Brother Kabraji for all that he had suffered at the offending Brother's hands.

The land question again came up this year, and the lodge unanimously passed the resolution which had been recommended by the Land Sub-committee, and a further resolution that a requisition in writing signed by the members of the lodge, as required by the Deed of Trust, be sent to the Trustees empowering them to sell the trust premises on such terms as to them might seem meet.

The Scottish Masonic Hall project was also brought to a head. The Grand Lodge Sub-committee had prepared a report containing a scheme for the purchase for Rs. 42,500 of a bungalow at Clare Road, Byculla, by forming a Joint Stock Company to be called "The Framji Cowasji Freemasons' Hall Association, Ltd.," and the Grand Lodge had submitted this report to Lodge Rising Star and written a letter inquiring whether the lodge would like to have a Joint Masonic Hall together with the English Masons or a separate hall for them under the Scottish jurisdiction only, and the Hall Committee had also asked the lodge to choose a site for building a hall. While the matter was being considered by the lodge the Sub-committee's report and the letter were both withdrawn by the Grand Lodge, as in the meantime it appears the Sub-committee propounded another scheme for building a Freemasons' Hall at a cost of Rs. 60,000 on a plot of

ground on the Esplanade adjacent to what was then known as the racquet court, which Government were willing to sell at Rs. 20 per square yard, and the scheme, with some modifications as to the details, was accepted by the Freemasons' Hall Committee. This scheme was, however, not put through, as the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and his immediate predecessor had found another suitable plot near the Young Men's Christian Association site admeasuring about 4,000 square yards at 6 annas per square yard, and that site was considered more suitable than the one near the racquet court, but it was decided by the Grand Lodge to build a joint Masonic Hall with the District Grand Lodge (E. C.) instead of erecting one for the Scottish bodies only.

At a Grand Lodge Convocation, held on 22nd July 1882, the following two resolutions amongst others were passed at the instance of Brother Morland, *viz.*, "(1) That the District Grand Lodge under England and the Hall Committee be informed that in terms of a resolution passed on the 29th October last the Grand Lodge desires to give effect to the intentions of the late Brother Nowroji Nanabhai Framji and to utilize to its best advantage his assignment of land towards the erection of a Masonic Hall, with which view the offer of a most desirable site on highly favourable terms has been obtained from Government and has been conditionally accepted; that it is hoped the building will be put in hand as soon as a reply to a reference which is about to be made to the masonic bodies of the Scottish Obedience is received; that although by the terms of the deed of gift the hall must necessarily belong to the Scottish Constitution this Grand Lodge trusts it will not prevent the bodies under the English Constitution meeting therein as at present, and that the arrangement will further promote the fraternal feelings which already exist between the brethren of the Craft under the two Constitutions. (2) That a special letter

be addressed to Lodge Rising Star, in the members of which lodge the disposal of the moneys expected to be derived from the sale of the land assigned for the erection of a Masonic Hall for the Scottish Constitution rests, inviting its hearty co-operation in the undertaking which is so eminently suited to secure the wish of the donor, the late Nowroji Nanabhai Framji, and stating that it is proposed the hall should be named the Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall in consideration of the funds to be derived from the sale of the land being contributed towards the erection of the hall."

The resolutions were supported in the Grand Lodge by Brother K. R. Cama and the Worshipful Master and Brothers Murzban and D. R. Chichgar.

Subsequently the lodge was requested to inform the Grand Lodge what amount it was prepared to invest in the building of the joint Masonic Hall out of its general and charity funds, and the matter having been considered Brother K. R. Cama gave notice of a motion in the following terms :—

"That Lodge Rising Star proposes to make a free gift either of the land held in trust for it from the late Worshipful Brother Nowroji Nanabhai Framji or the proceeds of the sale thereof, if the same is in the meantime sold to the Freemasons' Hall, Committee (who have power from both the G. L. of A. S. F. I. and the District Grand Lodge of Bombay to frame a scheme for the erection of a joint Masonic Hall) for the purpose of Building a Masonic Hall to be for ever called by all the masonic bodies holding meetings therein, "The Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall" and that in order to carry out the intention of the donor and of this lodge in its integrity, this lodge should appoint two of its members to represent this lodge on the Joint Hall Committee or the Board of Trustees or such other body as may be hereafter appointed to manage and control the concerns of the Hall

who should have no right to vote save and except on matters relating to the subject of this resolution, and that in consequence of this free gift the Trustees of the proposed Masonic Hall should make suitable provision in the Deed of Trust for the purpose of giving full effect to this resolution."

1883.—This proposition was the first thing taken up in the year 1883 and it was passed on 6th January along with another proposition which was then brought forward to meet the requirement of the Trust Deed, namely "That a requisition in terms of that proposition be obtained in writing from the majority of the members of the lodge in conformity with the conditions of the Trust Deed." The proposition was duly communicated to the Grand Lodge Sub-committee. The Joint Hall Committee thereafter submitted the hall scheme formulated by the Sub committee to the lodge and desired to know to what extent the lodge would support the scheme financially and take up debentures proposed to be issued thereunder.

The Grand Sub-committee consisted of Brothers James W. Smith, K. R. Cama, J. P. Cornforth, J. R. Kirby Johnston, James Sinclair Pirie and D. R. Chichgar and in their report they (Brothers Cama and Chichgar dissenting) had *inter alia* expressed their opinion upon the proposition that had already been submitted to them that the Masonic Hall for Bombay should not bear the name of any Brother or individual whatever but should be called "The Bombay Masonic Hall" and that it was objectionable in principle to allow the donor of less than 1/9 of the total cost of the building (which it may be stated was estimated at about Rs. 95,000) to saddle it with any distinctive personal name and particularly with the name of a deceased gentleman who was not a Mason and further objected to two of the members of the lodge being appointed permanent members of the

Hall Committee and did not recommend that the proposition submitted by the lodge should be accepted.

The lodge considered the scheme and in due course signified to the Hall Committee their acceptance of it subject to certain stated modifications and intimated that the members would be prepared to subscribe debentures to the extent of Rs. 20,000 or thereabouts, subject to certain specified conditions, and in regard to the objections of the Sub-committee regarding the name to be given to the hall the Committee's attention was drawn to the resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge on 22nd July 1882 which initiated the proposal to give the name of "The Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall" and regarding the objection to the appointment of two members permanently on the Hall Committee they reminded the Committee that such appointment had already been considered necessary by the Grand Lodge as appeared from the resolutions passed by them on 29th October 1881. At the same time the lodge intimated that it would be happy to consider any proposal which the Hall Committee might make to effectuate the same purpose.

The land was also sold this year and the net sale proceeds were invested in Government of India Loan Notes in the names of the Trustees as required by the Trust Deed. Brother Hormusji M. Chichgar's firm of Messrs. Nanu & Hormusji had acted as the Solicitors for the Trustees without charging any costs and a cordial vote of thanks was passed in recognition of their services in the matter. A suitable present to Brother Hormusji M. Chichgar was also proposed, but that Brother, true to the best traditions of his honourable profession as to the noblest principles of the masonic order, objected to it on the ground that he had a partner in the firm who was associated in the matter and a presentation would be unusual.

In order to enable the lodge, if need be, to utilize a part of its funds in the building of the Masonic Hall,

Bye-law 68 was amended by providing for the investment of the funds also in and towards the building of a Masonic Hall, etc., with the consent of the Lodge in addition to the investments permitted by that Bye-law.

The lodge contributed Rs 100 to the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Fund, this time honouring Brother Jehangir Gustadji who, according to the rules of that fund, became its life member and also entitled to vote on its Committee.

The Grand Master, Brother Mackintosh Balfour (who was also an honorary member of the lodge) had resigned his exalted post at the end of the last year and Brother Morland again became the Grand Master. A fund was, upon his suggestion, inaugurated to defray the cost of a portrait of Brother Balfour for which he was, pursuant to a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge, requested to give a sitting, and the lodge subscribed to the fund and testified to the high esteem and affection in which it held that worthy Brother and to its appreciation of his many and valuable efforts for the promotion of the welfare of the Craft.

A silver calabash with a suitable inscription was voted to Brother D. R. Chichgar as a memento of his zeal for the good of the lodge and his readiness to assist the brethren at all times, but was not presented, as that Brother declined to accept it considering that the confidence the lodge had in him was in itself a more than sufficient reward for what little he had done for the lodge and further that the presentation would be a drain on the General Funds of the Lodge which just then could not be spared for presentation purposes, and no doubt that was so, for the numerical strength of the lodge was decreasing, old members were resigning, new members were not coming in any large numbers and one-fourth of the subscriptions had to go to charity account and the remaining three-fourths was just sufficient to maintain the ordinary expenses of the lodge, and the brethren were

seriously considering how to help the General Funds and in fact proposals were made and discussed for revising the allocation of the initiation and other fees and monthly subscriptions which would have had the effect of cutting down to some extent the proportion set apart for charity, but even then the majority of the brethren did not like to touch the charity proportion and left it unaffected and tried to find out other ways and means for increasing the General Funds but happily the state of the finances again improved by the end of the year and it was found unnecessary to consider the matter further.

Brother Cowasji Sorabji Patel who for nearly 40 years was the Treasurer of the Lodge resigned the Office owing to ill-health and the lodge in recognition of his long services voted him a gold watch as a memento of its appreciation thereof and regard for him.

The Naoroze festival took place and the lodge joined in it this year also.

Brother M. M. Bhowmagree, who was at the time in England, was nominated Proxy Master to represent the lodge in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

For the first time, the Annual Certificate of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, was read and recorded at a lodge meeting certifying that the lodge had complied with the whole requisition of the Act of Parliament entitled "An Act for the More Effectual Suppression of Societies, established for Seditious and Treasonable Purposes, etc.," and also with the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of 5th August 1799 and authorizing the lodge to exercise their whole powers and functions of Freemasons in terms of and conforming to, the Charter of Constitution and erection.

An important presentation was made this year and for the second time in the history of the lodge to a member of the Blood Royal of England. It was of the

Fundator's Medal presented to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G., Past Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

His Royal Highness accompanied by H. E. the Governor of Bombay, laid the foundation stone of the Pestanji Hormusji Cama Hospital for Women and Children. The ceremony was to be performed according to the ancient masonic rites and with masonic honours and two of the items in the printed programme of function were the presentation of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge by the M. W., the G. M. A. S. F. I. to His Royal Highness for the purpose of presenting him with the Burne's Medal and the presentation. By some accident the masonic ceremonies were not performed and the medal was not presented in person. It was therefore subsequently forwarded to H. R. H. at Meerut, whither he had proceeded, with a letter from the Worshipful Master, and the presentation was duly acknowledged on behalf of H. R. H. by Brother M. Fitzgerald of his staff by a letter conveying H. R. H.'s gracious acceptance and pleasure at receiving the mark of distinction.

There was an addition of two new members, namely, Jehangir K. R. Cama (introduced by his venerable father) and Meherally Devraj Master and Brother Merwanji Bomanji Engineer rejoined, but on the whole, the numerical strength at the end of the year was less than at the commencement thereof, for Brothers Sheriff Salemahomed, F. R. Vivaji, Krishnaji Laxman and Hormusji Dadabhai resigned, and Brothers Barton and C. F. Khory died, and Brother Waslekar's name was struck out for default in payment of lodge dues. Brother Khory was the immediate Past Master, and a special funeral lodge was held in his memory at which resolutions were passed recording the regret of the lodge at his death and expressing sympathy with his widow and aged mother

and for the lodge furniture and jewels being draped in mourning until the next regular meeting. This Brother was known for his truthfulness and independent spirit and was acknowledged to be a good Mason and true, and to his noble traits a fitting testimony was borne at the meeting by the Past Grand Master, Brother M. Balfour, who though then on the eve of his departure from India had at great inconvenience attended the funeral service. In place of the Past Master's jewel which had been voted before to the deceased Brother, the lodge made a contribution to a fund which was got up by his friends and admirers to perpetuate his memory.

The minutes show that the Worshipful Substitute Master, Brother R. M. Chichgar, had presided at many of the meetings during this year owing to the absence of the Worshipful Master on account of illness and other causes, and given entire satisfaction to the brethren, who rightly rewarded his zeal and ability by electing him to the chair for the following year.

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## CHAPTER XXVI.

1884.—This Brother's regime was marked by peace and prosperity. The finances were in a more flourishing condition than before and in the roll of members there was a pretty large and desirable accession.

Brothers Hormusji Dadabhai Kabraji and E. S. Jussawalla rejoined. Khan Saheb Ratanji Edulji Kanga, Dr. Hormusji Nusserwanji Seevai and Manecksha Jehangirsha Talyarkhan were initiated, while Brothers Ratansha Dadabhai, Shapurji Sorabji, Khodabax Shermahomed, Hormusji Nusserwanji Vakil, Rehmubhai Allana, Mulji Jivraj and Sorabji Dadabhai Dubash were affiliated. Two members resigned, *viz.*, Brothers Temulji Dhanjibhoy Engineer and Pestanji Dajibhai Unwalla and two were removed by death, *viz.*, Brothers Balfour, an honorary Member of the Lodge and Cowasji Sorabji Patel. Tyler for more than one third of a century.

Resolutions were passed recording the regret of the brethren at these deaths and condoling with their families, and a funeral service at a special meeting was also held in memory of the deceased Brother Tyler. There were three initiations and an equal number of passings and raisings during the year.

The Naoroze festival was celebrated as in former years and the lodge participated in it.

Worshipful Brother M. M. Bhowmugree was again appointed Proxy Master to represent the lodge in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The lodge subscribed Rs. 200/ to the Scottish Benevolent Fund and Brothers Jamsetji D. Wadia and H. M. Chichgar were nominated life members thereof.

Worshipful Brother Nowroji Furdoonji was voted a Past Master's jewel. He, however, while accepting it presented a Government Loan Note for Rs. 500/ as a donation to the lodge charity funds with a request that the interest thereon only should be applied for charitable purposes.

Among the office-bearers for the year was Brother Shripad B. Thakur as Gita-bearer.

A Brother named Charles B. Leonard Gunner of H. M's. S. S. "Dragon" presented to the lodge His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' plumes in carved brass gilt and silvered which were thankfully received.

It was resolved to procure a new die of the Fundator's medal at an outlay of about Rs. 400/ as the original die was missing.

The affiliation fee was this year raised from Rs. 10/ to Rs. 25/. From November of this year the lodge removed from the Nesbit Lane Bungalow and began to assemble at "Huntley Lodge", Clare Road, Byculla, in pursuance of an arrangement made by the Freemasons' Hall Committee for the assembling of all bodies there.

Brother D. R. Chichgar had during this year acted as Grand Secretary for some months during the absence of that office-bearer in England. Brother D. R. Chichgar was at this time Honorary Substitute Grand Master while Brothers Manekji Cursetji and K. R. Cama were already Honorary Depute Grand Masters. Brother Murzban was this year created also an Honorary Depute Grand Member in recognition of his labours in Freemasonry which were deemed considerable and always of great advantage to the Grand Lodge.

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## CHAPTER XXVII.

1885.—Worshipful Brother R. M. Chichgar was re-elected Master for the year 1885. There was not much work done for there was only one initiation and one raising, but lectures were delivered, two of them being by the Right Worshipful Master on "Masonic Symbols, Lodge Room, and Apron" and "Admission of Brethren in Lodges" and one by Brother N. R. Chichgar on the "Antiquity of Brotherhood."

The raising was of Brother Fakirji Dinsha, a child of Lodge Perseverance, who had already received his two degrees in that lodge and was conferred the 3rd degree at the request of the Worshipful Master of that lodge for the reason that that lodge had no time to confer that degree on him, and at its installation meeting which was to come off very shortly the Master-elect was anxious to appoint Brother Fakirji as one of his office-bearers and before being appointed Brother Fakirji had to be a Master Mason. Later in the year this Brother was affiliated to the lodge.

Besides Brother Fakirji Dinsha's there was one more affiliation and for the first time from Lodge Islam No. 587 S. C., namely of Brother Haji Ismail Hassam.

Mr. Burjorji Dinsha Lam was the only member initiated. Right Worshipful Brother General W. Mullaby of the British Army was honoured with the distinction of an honorary member. He was then Depute Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and had previously been in charge of the Grand Lodge on two occasions when the Grand Master Brother Morland was away

in England and Australia, and was a keen and enthusiastic mason of 37 years' standing and it is recorded that in recommending the proposition for electing that distinguished Brother as an honorary member, Brother K. R. Cama, cited him as a Mason who had set an example, worthy of imitation, of earnestness and zeal for Masonry by attending all the way from Mhow, hundreds of miles away from Bombay, to discharge his duties as Grand Senior Warden while he occupied that post at the Conventions in Bombay of the Grand Lodge of which he had been a member for about 10 years by never keeping away while others more favorably situated would keep away on slight excuses. It was after a lapse of 7 years that an honorary membership was conferred this year and on such an illustrious Mason, and he personally expressed to the brethren at a lodge meeting that he valued the exceptional honour beyond any other, done as it was, by the lodge which was specially honoured among native lodges.

Worshipful Brother Dadabhai Nowroji was at this time in Bombay and attended some of the lodge meetings and was specially welcomed, and promised to attend whenever he could find time to do so. At a meeting held on 7th November a resolution was passed congratulating him in very flattering terms on his elevation to a seat on the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay. It appears that the lodge never missed an occasion whenever it got one of expressing its special gratification and pleasure at this worthy Brother's presence at the meetings he attended and congratulating him on the events in his public life.

But while the lodge rejoiced at the accession of members and their continued connection it equally grieved on losing them, specially by death, and the losses this year in that direction were such as the lodge could ill afford. Brothers C. N. Cama and Nowroji Furdonji died, the former at

the commencement and the latter about the end of the year.

Brother Cama was an unostentatious man and mason of many sided activities, who thought rightly and acted well and wisely and was not deterred from a determination to do good either by opposing prejudice or crude ignorance but always threw his heart and soul in every good undertaking and lent his helping hand in every cause of public benevolence, charity and utility imbued with a strong sense of duty and the righteousness of his own action. He had rendered himself particularly useful in educational matters and reforms and considered himself quite happy in assisting in their development, acting on the true masonic principle of rendering oneself extensively serviceable to his fellow-creatures and having always present to his mind a state of reward and punishment in after life according to the deeds done in the flesh inculcated by the declaration subscribed to by every Mason on admission into the Order.

A funeral lodge was held in his memory which was very largely attended, and after the service was concluded Worshipful Brother Dadabhai Nowroji, who had been early associated with him, chiefly in connection with the establishment of the Girls' Schools by the Student's Literary and Scientific Society under the Alexandra Native Girls' Institution, read a splendid oration (which has been recorded as a part of the minutes) in which he forcibly depicted the character of the deceased Brother by enumerating at great length the many valuable services rendered by him to several public and charitable institutions and gave a very elaborate and historical sketch of his public deeds and actions as well as an accurate delineation of his private life, giving instances illustrative of his wide intelligence, catholic sympathies and his courage never to submit or yield, but "like the Knight not to look round him but win the treasure." He also in

that oration paid a high tribute to the worthy departed Mason's enthusiasm to labour in a good cause, his wise counsels, well considered views, and independence.

Resolutions were passed recording in feeling terms the sorrow of the lodge at the death of the worthy Brother and condoling with his widow and family, including his son Brother J. C. Cama who was then already a member of the lodge, and some telling speeches were delivered in which references were made with general approbation to the unstinted and ungrudging services rendered to the lodge by the deceased during his long connection of 28 years, for the greater part of which he had filled with credit and honour the post of Treasurer. He had latterly been Substitute Master and but for his diffidence in addressing the brethren in English, would have also passed the Chair. A resolution was also passed that the furniture and jewels of the lodge be draped in mourning till the next regular monthly meeting. A memorial fund for perpetuating the memory of the deceased was also got up between the members of the lodge.

Brother Nowroji Furdoonji was the Immediate Past Master and an active and zealous member of the lodge and was also Substitute Grand Master at the time of his death. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master had issued a circular the next day after his death to all the lodges of his obedience announcing the death and expressing profound grief at the loss of one "who was a faithful and zealous member of the Craft, whose memory was entitled to be honoured as that of all men who live honestly and honourably and do the duties of life and of their station zealously and faithfully, not for gain or profit, not for reward, honour or emolument, but because they are duties in this world, and by whose removal the pillars of the Grand Lodge were shaken." "The circular also intimated that the obsequies due to the exalted rank in Freemasonry of the deceased Brother would in due

course be arranged for and directed that in the meantime the altars and working tools of the lodges under the Scottish sway throughout India, including Aden and Ceylon should be draped in black and the brethren should wear the proper badges of mourning for 60 days."

In consequence of the circular the lodge did not hold a funeral service in memory of the deceased Brother which it otherwise would have done, but contented itself with passing resolutions at a regular meeting deeply deploring the death of that eminent Brother and sympathising with his widow in her great bereavement. The Grand Master was present at this meeting and in a pathetic address eulogised the several good qualities of the departed Brother which had, he said, so attracted him that he was induced to appoint him to the high and enviable position of Substitute Grand Master. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Grand Master expressive of the sense of the gratitude of the lodge for his spontaneously undertaking to hold the funeral service in the Grand Lodge and thereby doing honour to a Brother who was much loved and admired by the citizens in general, amongst whom he was known as the Tribune of the People, and the masonic fraternity in particular.

The Grand Lodge subsequently held a funeral lodge in remembrance of our deceased and much lamented Brother which was very numerously attended.

Two members resigned, namely, Brothers M. B. Engineer and Hormusji Shapurji. Brother D. R. Chichgar proceeded to Europe in May of this year but before his departure the Joint Hall Committee voted a sum of Rs. 250 in aid of a fund for presenting a testimonial to him in recognition of the services rendered by him as Secretary to the Committee, and a Sub-committee was formed of Brothers Barrow, K.R. Cama and J. M. Cursetji to collect subscriptions. The lodge contributed Rs. 100 towards the fund and members individually also subscribed about Rs. 130

thus testifying to their sense of appreciation of that Brother's work. A banquet was also given to him which was largely attended by members of several lodges who also contributed their mite to the testimonial fund.

This year also the lodge contributed as usual Rs. 100 to the Scottish Benevolent Fund, associating the name of Brother R. M. Chichgar as life-member thereof. A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother R. M. Chichgar, who during his two years' regime, had proved himself by common consent quite worthy of the chair.

The Naoroze festival was celebrated this year under the mangement of the lodge.

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## CHAPTER XXVIII.

1886—Brother Manekshaw D. Doctor succeeded Brother R. M. Chichgar in the government of the lodge and held the reins as lightly and creditably as his illustrious predecessors had done. Though engaged in a service, the exigencies of which demanded his attention at all times of the day or night, he was almost always found at his post and did good work. In his time there were one initiation, 3 passings and 3 raisings and some spare time was utilised by his delivering a discourse on the "Antiquity and Universality of Masonry." One new member was initiated, namely, Mr. Pestanji Cowasji (Solicitor). Three brethren were affiliated, *viz.*, Brothers Ardesir Cowasji Homji, Nowroji Pestanji Vakil (now C. I. E.) and Dr. K. R. Kirtikar, and Brother D. Murray Lyon, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, was made an honorary member in recognition of the very eminent and valuable services rendered by him to Freemasonry in general and as a token of the appreciation of the lodge of the marked attention he had paid to those of its members who had the opportunity of visiting the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Brother Bhownugree who had now returned from England and was present at the first meeting held in the year certified from personal knowledge derived by his contact with that worthy Brother and his attendances in the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the fact that Brother Lyon was taking a deep interest in and paying great attention to the affairs and welfare of the lodge.

Brother D. R. Chichgar had also returned from England and was present at the regular meeting

held in March and reported to the lodge that he had been very warmly and heartily received in the Grand Lodge of Scotland which he had the honour to visit during his sojourn in Edinburgh and that by a special resolution a high privilege had been conferred on him by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Brother Sir Archibald Campbell of Blythwood, Baronet, namely, that of wearing the fundator's medal, within a wreath of roses and thistles emblematic of England and Scotland. The lodge thereupon passed a resolution recording its great gratification at the cordial reception of Brother D. R. Chichgar and the particular mark of favour conferred on him by a special ordinance to denote the interest which Brother D. R. Chichgar had taken in both the Constitutions as the Honorary Secretary of the Joint Freemasons' Hall Committee, and also its sense of the high honour done to it by that body and also resolved that the Worshipful Master be requested to forward a copy of the resolution engrossed on parchment to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

Brother James Gibbs died this year, and a vote of condolence was recorded on account of his death and a resolution was passed sympathizing with his widow in her heavy bereavement. Brother Jehangir Gustadji also died this year, and in memory of the latter a special funeral lodge was held at which resolutions were passed deeply lamenting his death and condoling with his son Mr. Manekji J. Gustadji and for draping the furniture and jewels of the lodge in mourning for one month. This departed Brother was a very amiable, useful, zealous and faithful member of the lodge and had made himself very popular during the 25 years that he was a subscribing member and his place was filled next year by his son.

The names of Brothers Sorabji Shapurji Bengalee, C. I. E., and Pestanji Hormusji Cama, C. I. E., were this year translated into the honoured list of honorary members.

Brother Bengalee had then made the noble gift of a building costing about Rs. 67,000 in perpetuity to the Girls' School Association for the purpose of providing a permanent home for the Fort School of the said Association, and thereby crowned the disinterested services which he had through a series of years unostentatiously rendered to the cause of female education and social progress in the City of Bombay, and had exemplified in a marked degree the true principles of Freemasonry and upheld the honour of the Craft. Brother P. H. Cama was a man and mason of large-hearted benevolence and had proved himself true to the best traditions and excellent precepts of Freemasonry by his munificent gift of nearly two lacs of Rupees for a Hospital for Women and Children, the foundation stone of which was laid at the close of the year 1883 by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, and endowing scholarships in aid of female education, and thereby giving practical illustrations of the fundamental lessons of that cardinal virtue in Freemasonry, *viz.*, all possible relief to the poor and distressed. Both the brethren were by general acclamation deemed quite worthy of the distinction conferred on them

Brother Dr. James Cranstoun, Grand Bard and Professor in the Royal High School of Edinburgh, was now appointed Proxy Master to represent the lodge in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Naoroze festival was celebrated this year also.

An inventory of the property of the lodge was taken in June of this year, and it included the portraits of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Brothers Maneckji Cursetji, and M. C. Murzban, and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' feathers.

A Past Master's jewel was voted at the installation meeting to Brother M. D. Doctor, and Rs. 100 were voted to the Scottish Benevolent Fund associating his name therewith.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

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1887.—Brother Nanabhai R. Chichgar was the Worshipful Master in the year 1887. Three new members joined the lodge, being one initiate and two affiliates. The initiate was Mr. Manekji Jehangir Gustadji, the son of the late Brother Jehangir Gustadji whose death the lodge mourned only the preceding year, and the affiliates were Brothers Currimbhoy Ibrahim and Fazulbhai Visram. Brother Currimbhai Ibrahim was an acquisition and to this day has been a subscribing member of the lodge. It was not in his own self that he added to the strength of the lodge numerically and otherwise but also in the introduction in the years following of his five worthy sons one after the other, and by his benefactions which in later years received due applause and recognition from the lodge, he has shown himself a good Mason and true, faithful to the tenets of our excellent Order and ever anxious to practise them in their broad teachings.

This year also the Naoroze festival was held, the lodge taking part in it.

This was the year of the Golden Jubille of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, when she assumed the title of Empress of India, and the Grand Master A. S. F. I., Brother Henry Morland, who was at the time the President of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, was honoured with a Knighthood by the august Sovereign. A masonic banquet was given to him by the Scottish Fraternity under the auspices of the Grand Lodge and the superintendence of an Entertainment Committee, which included Brothers K. R. Cama and D. R. Chichgar as two of its members. The

brethren joined in the banquet to do honour to their worthy chief and the lodge also passed a special vote of congratulation which was conveyed to him in a letter.

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught who was now the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in India, was on the 12th of November 1887 installed as District Grand Master of Bombay and its territories. The lodge had the honour of being represented on the occasion and Brother Fakirji Dinshaw was the Director of Ceremonies on behalf of the lodge in the ceremonial of Investiture.

All the recipients of charitable contributions from the lodge had this year the benefit of a free supply of tea from Brother Manekji Hormusji Maju, a member whose generous offer to do so was thankfully accepted by the lodge and duly recorded in the minutes.

Brother Maneckji Cursetji had passed through a very serious illness and at one time a rumour had gone abroad that he had died, which happily had proved to be false; for the worthy Brother was present thereafter at a Regular meeting of the Lodge held on 2nd April, 1887, and was accorded a special welcome by the brethren, and in thanking them for their solicitude and kindness for him he assured them of his readiness to do what lay in his power to further the interests of Freemasonry. But this was not to be, for Divine Providence had disposed otherwise. This meeting of 2nd April, 1887, proved to be the last meeting at which the enlivening influence and pleasant intercourse of that Worthy Brother were to be experienced, for within a short time he left this earthly tabernacle and his soul took wings to the Sublunary Abode and the Grand Lodge above to seek rest and peace in eternity, after a brilliant and useful masonic career of 43 years dating from 1843, when this lodge saw the light through his exertions. The Brother's death having taken place before the Installation Meeting; that meeting was postponed until next year, and the lodge went into mourning. The Grand Lodge of All

Scottish Freemasonry in India went also into mourning with all its daughter-lodges and the District Grand Lodge was also pleased to pay a like compliment to his memory. Brother Maneckji Cursetji was still at the time of his death Honorary Depute Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

A lodge of sorrow was held by the lodge in his memory on 7th January 1888 at which the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India with about 30 members of the Grand Lodge was present in addition to a very distinguished and representative congregation of about two hundred Masons, comprising Europeans, Parsis, Hindus and Mahomedans. After the funeral service was performed Brother M. M. Bhowmugree delivered an oration which concisely yet very prominently recounted the early laudable and successful efforts of the lamented Brother in opening the portals of Freemasonry to his countrymen in Western India with great perseverance and unselfishness and with a fearless and couragous spirit and against the opposition made by some of the leading Europeans of the time against fraternising with natives and in the face of contempt and ridicule of members of his own community who in those early times did not view the Masonic Order any way favourably. It also paid a fitting tribute to the scrupulous and strict scrutiny which the deceased Brother always made and enforced into the qualifications and eligibility of a candidate and the generous spirit with which he helped the lodge for nearly 20 years of its early career and through its vicissitudes both in point of members and funds and above all his strict fidelity to the lodge. By the death of this Brother, whose aims, as tested by time and circumstances, were solid and benevolent and on whom honours had fallen thick and fast and who had won, and most deservedly, the love and esteem of Masons both Scotch and English alike who knew him then by the familiarly

patriarchal name of the Father and Founder of Masonry among the people of Western India this lodge lost one of its strongest pillars and objects of pride. The lodge recorded resolutions mourning his loss and condoling with Brother K. R. Cama (the deceased's son-in-law) and Brother J. M. Cursetji and Mr. C. M. Cursetji (his sons) and also for raising a Fund by subscriptions to perpetuate his memory in some permanent form to be thereafter determined.

The brethren also resolved that they should always drink to his memory in solemn silence whenever they should meet at the festive board.

The deceased was the first native gentleman appointed by Government to fill the post of the Sheriff of Bombay and also the first Indian Member of the Royal Asiatic Society.

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## CHAPTER XXX.

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1888.—The Installation Meeting which had to be postponed was under a dispensation, held on 23rd February 1888. Brother M. M. Bhowmugree, C.I.E. (who was by this time Past Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Scotland) was installed into the Eastern Chair and the occasion was one which will be long remembered and looked upon with feelings of utmost pride and gratification by the lodge, for it was graced by the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K.G., District Grand Master of Bombay and its territories, who had been pleased to honour the lodge by a special attendance with his District Grand Lodge Officers. This was the first visit of His Royal Highness to a Native lodge and special preparations were made to receive him. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India also paid an official visit with his Grand Lodge Officers and His Royal Highness was received by a deputation of the Grand Lodge Officers and introduced into the lodge by Brother Hormusji Dadabhai. The Worshipful Master Brother N. R. Chichgar accorded His Royal Highness a fitting and cordial welcome on behalf of the lodge both as a Brother Mason occupying the most exalted Office in the sister Constitution and as a son of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, whose name was a household word throughout the British Empire, and thanked His Royal Highness for the high honour done by him and hoped that he would while in this part of the country condescend to honour them with visits in the future.

The lodge at that very meeting elected His Royal Highness an honorary member by acclamation and the distinction was very graciously accepted and in honour of the occasion the lodge subscribed Rs. 200/- being double its customary donation, to the Scottish Benevolent Fund (associating this time the names of Brothers Rustomji Merwanji Patel and N. R. Chichgar).

The august Duke was pleased to say a few words in praise of the excellent working of the lodge and to congratulate it on the prosperous condition of its Charity Funds.

It was also at this meeting that a portrait of Brother Dr. Burnes, presented by Mr. C. M. Cursetji, a son of the late Brother Manekji Cursetji, was thankfully received, and a resolution was passed for putting a suitable inscription thereto and requesting the Hall Committee to allow it to be hung in the Hall.

This year two other distinguished Masons were also elected honorary members, namely, Right Worshipful Brother Sir William Clarke, Baronet, then District Grand Master of England and Provincial Grand Master of Scotland and Ireland at Melbourne, and Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Jullins Wilmot, M.D., Past Grand Deacon of the English Constitution and Past District Grand Senior Warden of Victoria. These brethren had shown great courtesy to Brother D. R. Chichgar and received him very kindly in their Grand Lodge while he was at Melbourne about three months before this and had also elected him an honorary member of the Grand Lodge, and Brother Sir William Clarke had further presented to him a jewel as a token of esteem and brotherly love evinced by him during his sojourn in that distant part of the country. All this was personally testified to and reported by Brother D. R. Chichgar on his return at a meeting held on 2nd June, when he also informed the lodge that the jewel presented to him was the second of its kind presented by

the Grand Master of England to a member of the Craft ; the first being one, then recently presented to the Earl of Carnarvon. The courtesy and honour were duly reciprocated, as they deserved to be, by these two brethren being borne on the list of honorary members.

Besides the two distinguished honorary members, there were six affiliates and one initiate. The affiliates were Brothers Framji Dinsha Petit, Hormusji Dossabhai Cama, Dorab Jamsetji Tata (since created a knight), Gordhandas Khatau Makanji, C. N. Pavri and Narayen Ganesh Chandavarkar (also since created a Knight and a Judge of the High Court of Bombay) while the solitary initiate was Mr. Ardesir Framji Bahadurji. Brother B. D. Lam was the only member who resigned.

The Naoroze festival took place also this year and the members of the lodge participated in it.

A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother N. R. Chichgar.

A lecture was delivered by Brother Rustom K. R. Cama on "The End and Objects of Freemasonry."

In regard to charity funds it was this year resolved that so long as they continued in their then state, a sum not exceeding Rs. 50/ per mensem should be expended in stipends and that no monthly stipend should exceed Rs. 5/.

A question had arisen as to whether a ballot taken for a candidate at a regular meeting before confirming the minutes of a previous regular meeting was valid, for this had happened in the case of the gentleman initiated this year. Brother Secretary contended that it was irregular, being against masonic usage and custom and therefore illegal, and brought forward a proposition to that effect, which, however, on a division was lost. Subsequently it appears the Grand Lodge published a ruling by the Grand Lodge of Scotland on the subject of the reading of the minutes at lodge meetings which laid down that at all stated meetings of a lodge before transacting any business

it was necessary that the minutes of previous meetings must be first read and confirmed. To this ruling the Grand Master had appended his opinion that if through an extraordinary accident the previous minutes could not be read and confirmed the brethren would not grudge attending to work. This ruling on its coming to the notice of the lodge, was considered somewhat doubtful and if left unmodified, difficult of operation, even to the extent of obstructing smooth and efficient working of lodges. A representation was therefore submitted by the lodge to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master conveying certain objections and requesting him to solicit reconsideration of the ruling in question by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. As to what transpired after this, does not appear, for the minutes do not contain any further reference to the subject. A system of duplicating the higher offices in the Grand Lodge was introduced about this time with the object of meeting cases of inconvenience and emergency and Brother K. R. Cama was accordingly nominated one of the two Grand Masters Depute and Brother D. R. Chichgar one of the two Substitute Grand Masters.

The lodge took part in the Jamshed Naoroze festival held on March 21st under the management of Lodge Cyrus. Prayers and Hymns and a "Discourse on Brotherly Love and Charity" by Brother S. V. Bhandarkar followed by an entertainment constituted the programme. The entertainment consisted of native songs and an "Explanation of the Structure of the Human Eye with Diagrams and Microscopic Specimens," by Brother Dr. Prabhakar.

The Freemasons' Hall question again came up for discussion this year. The opposition which the Grand Sub-committee had at first made to the Hall being named after Mr. Framji Cowasji had, it appears, to some extent been withdrawn and it had of its own motion subsequently recommended that the Banqueting Hall should be called the Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall. The

whole building it was thought would cost about one Lac of Rupees. The subject was freely discussed at an emergent meeting, and the papers relating to the moneys held in trust by the lodge were referred to the Standing Committee with full powers to deal with the question of disposing of the funds. The lodge also appointed the Worshipful Master and Brothers Hormusji Dadabhoy, Temulji B. Nariman, M. J. Talyarkhan and Currimbhai Ibrahim as delegates representing it as required by the Hall Committee and subscribed Rupees 2,000/ worth of debentures out of the Charity Funds and individual members also subscribed debentures to a large amount.

The Standing Committee on a full consideration of the subject of the disposal of the trust-funds were of opinion that no action could be taken until the lodge was advised by Counsel as to the legality or otherwise of the proposed application thereof for the purposes of the Hall and recommended that Counsel's opinion should be taken in the matter.

1889.—The Retiring Master was re-elected to fill the chair for another year. The prosperity of the last year did not however attend his renewed rule. Only two new members were admitted, namely, Dr. B. S. Shroff and Mr. Jafferbhai Ludha Chatoo, but three resigned, namely, Brothers Sorabji D. Dubash, Rehemoobha Allana and Hormusji D. Cama, while death robbed the lodge of three more, namely Brothers H. F. Cooper, S. B. Turkhud and C. N. Pavri. Brother Cooper had during his membership of 22 years filled various Offices and was holding the post of Secretary at his death and a special funeral lodge was held in his memory at which resolutions were passed recording the sorrow of the lodge at his death and the heavy loss sustained by it, as the deceased Brother had by his zealous conduct, unostentatious and simple manner, his heart for work and great punctuality and constant attendance to masonic duties, proved himself to be an ex-

amplary member of the Order and had won the love and esteem of all alike. The lodge also passed resolutions condoling with the family of the deceased and went into mourning for one month. Brother Turkhud followed Brother Cooper within two months to seek the same eternal rest. He had been a member for a little over 15 years, during which period he had endeared himself to the brethren by his literary and other achievements and genial manners and showed himself to be every inch a good man and Mason. In his memory also a special funeral service was held at which Brother Kirtikar delivered an oration in which he splendidly recounted that Brother's attainments, literary, masonic, and otherwise, referring to his knowledge of 14 different languages of the East and West, and portrayed him as a Brother whom it was better to have loved and lost than not loved or known at all, meek and humble, never boastful of what he knew, never jealous of a rival or afraid of being beaten and great in his honour and integrity, his truthfulness, and a high and controlling sense of duty.

The oration contained also a sonnet by Brother Kirtikar to the memory of the late lamented Brother.

Other speakers also supported the estimate given by Brother Kirtikar in neat little speeches, feelingly expressive of the Brother's high genuine and noble masonic qualities and the lodge passed resolutions recording the irreparable loss sustained by his death and condoling with his mother and widow and for going into mourning for a month.

Within 5 months again the lodge had to mourn the loss of Brother C. N. Pavri, whom the same fate overtook. His death took place at the close of the year and a special funeral service in his memory was held in the next year and resolutions were passed recording the regret of the lodge and sympathising with his family. He was, it is recorded, a picture of modesty and pre-eminently a man of

whom one could truly say that he was throughout his life unostentatious and had performed his duties well with an unswerving devotion to Freemasonry.

To add to the loss of the lodge, Brother Rustom K. R. Cama had sent in his resignation but at the desire of Brother D. R. Chichgar the consideration of it was deferred and ultimately it was not pressed and to this day this amiable and energetic Brother has in his wisdom and unerring fidelity stuck on with credit to himself and advantage to the lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland had now held against the holding in duplicate of the higher Offices in the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and therefore Brother J.W. Smith, who was Depute Grand Master with Brother K. R. Cama and Brother D. R. Chichgar, who was one of the Substitute Grand Masters, resigned their respective Offices. Brother K. R. Cama was reinstalled as Depute Grand Master and Brother Chichgar was nominated Honorary Depute Grand Master.

Brother K. R. Cama's was the first instance of a Native of India being solely appointed to perform the duties of the high office of Depute Grand Master and the lodge felt just pride, in seeing one of its most esteemed Past Masters so honoured by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and specially recorded the election with acclamation in the form of a letter and handed same over to Brother Cama besides congratulating him in open lodge on the merited distinction. The Brethren felt no less grateful to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master for his recognition in such a marked degree of Brother Cama's labours in the cause of Masonry and the honour done thereby to the lodge.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was at the Grand Lodge festival of this year (which was held on 2nd December to suit his convenience and to allow of his long-looked-for visit to be paid) made an Honorary Past

Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and his patent of appointment as such was presented to him thereat by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. To commemorate this auspicious event, Brother Framji Dinsha Petit (who was at this time Grand Treasurer) made a handsome donation of Rs. 1,500/ in Government Paper to the Scottish Benevolent Fund.

The lodge made the usual contribution of Rs. 100/ this year to the Scottish Benevolent Fund.

The funds were in a very healthy state, amounting to Rs. 1,398-1-10, in General Account and Rs. 5,226-11-0 in Charity Account, and the number of subscribing members on the roll at the end of the year was 43.

The portrait of Brother Brunes received from Mr. C. M. Cursetji last year was handed over to Brother D. R. Chichgar for being hung in the Masonic Hall.

A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother Bhow-nugree.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

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1890.—In the year 1890, the lodge was ruled by Brother K. N. Kabraji. It again sustained a heavy loss, Brother Cursetji Maneckji Sett, who was the Treasurer for 8 years, had, owing to continued ill-health, resigned his office at the close of the preceding year and his meritorious services were fittingly recognised by a resolution recording the deep sense of gratitude, thanks and esteem of the lodge for the marked ability, unremitting care and anxious solicitude with which he had husbanded the resources and otherwise managed and controlled the disbursements of the funds and expressing a sincere hope for that Brother's recovery. But this hope was not realised, for within a very short time, Brother Sett obeyed the imperial mandate of death—the dread messenger against whose free entrance within the circle of masonic fraternity the barred doors or Tyler's weapon can offer no impediment. The lodge held a special funeral service in memory of the beloved Brother and passed resolutions deploring his death, condoling with his family and for going into mourning for one month and for draping the furniture and jewels in mourning during that period. Save this loss by death and the, resignations of Brothers Pestanji M. Nicholson, Hormussji Dossabhai Cama and Nanabhai R. Chichgar, the year passed off well. Six new members were admitted, being one affiliate, namely Brother Dr. Ismail Janmahomed, and five initiates, namely, Messrs. Dinsha Ardesir Talyarkhan (Municipal Commissioner, Baroda), Dhanjishaw Hormusji Karaka (Assistant Political Agent,

Kathiawar), Haji Mahomed Mehdi Malik-o-Tojjar (Ex-Governor of Bushire) and Mahomedbhai Currimbhai Ibbrahim and Haji Mirza Abbas (merchants).

The proceedings of the meetings at which Brother Malik-o-Tojjar received his three degrees were interpreted to him in Persian, owing to his imperfect knowledge of the English language.

Brother Malik-o-Tojjar presented to the lodge on the day that he was raised the sum of Rs. 500/ as a donation to the charity funds which was thankfully accepted and it was resolved that the amount should be invested in Government paper and held as an endowment from Brother Malik-o-Tojjar.

Brother H. M. Chichgar presented the sum of one rupee to the charity funds of the lodge and Brother Bhownugree made a gift of Rs. 500/ to the lodge on account of the intimate and kindly feelings which had marked his relations with the Worshipful Master Brother K. N. Kabraji since they both had been initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry and also on account of the prosperity which the lodge had attained during Brother Kabraji's stewardship. This gift was associated with the name of Brother Bhownugree's deceased sister, Miss Avabai M. Bhownugree, and upon condition that the income thereof only should be used for charitable purposes.

Brother Fakirji Dinsha presented to the lodge a portrait of Brother M. C. Murzban which the lodge received with thanks and an assurance that it would most carefully preserve it.

Brother K. R. Cama was now about to vacate the honourable post of Depute Grand Master and there was a general desire to commemorate his services to Freemasonry and Brother D. R. Chichgar brought forward a proposition for voting a sum of Rs. 50/ for a portrait of that Brother to be hung in the Freemasons' Hall. The

Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Sir Henry Morland, who was present at the meeting at which the proposal was made as an honorary member of the lodge, said that several other lodges and Masons shared in the desire to get up a token to Brother Cama in recognition of the eminent services ardently and faithfully rendered by him to the cause of Freemasonry in India and that it would be but fair that they should be allowed to subscribe to the portrait. This suggestion was accepted and the proposition passed. Brother Cama, who was present, said he felt greatly honoured by the resolution, all the more so, because it was an unexpected mark of good feeling shown to him by the lodge.

A farewell entertainment in the form of a *conversazione*, attended by Masons of both Constitutions and also non-Masons of both sexes, was held at the Secretariat on 7th March 1890 in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the District Grand Master, on his leaving the shores of India, and the lodge, though it was in mourning at that time, took part in that function to do honour to that illustrious personage.

Among the recipients of charity this year was a Brother named Bomanji Hormusji, belonging to Lodge Alexander of New South Wales, Australia, who had fallen on evil days and was helped with a sum required for setting him up in his business of a Photographer.

A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother Kabraji, and the usual contribution of Rs. 100/ to the Scottish Benevolent Fund was made at the installation meeting associating his name therewith.

1891.—Brother Dr. Temulji B. Nariman (now a member of His Excellency the Governor's Legislative Council) succeeded Brother Kabraji and kept up the high state of efficiency in which the lodge had until then been maintained. He, like his predecessors, did not rest content with the customary work of conferring degrees only, but,

himself gave lectures and imparted instruction to the brethren and peace and happiness prevailed throughout his rule. The degree work consisted of three initiations, one passing and one raising. Four new members were added to the ranks, namely, Brother Gordhandas Goculdas Tejpal, affiliated from Lodge Perseverance, and Messrs. Pestanji Maneckji Kanga (Solicitor), Phiroze Cursetji Rustomji Sethna and Phirozsha Nusserwanji Pleader (Solicitor) of whom the latter three have since continued to belong to the lodge and have worthily passed into the list of Past Masters. But Brother Sethna's entry was a little marred by the death, very soon thereafter, of his father, Brother Cursetji Rustomji Sethna. Brothers Nowroji M. Contractor or Purvez and Jamsetji Dhanjibhai Wadia resigned during the year, while Brother Jehangir K. R. Cama who had resigned in 1886 when he went to Europe, rejoined the lodge this year.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Sir Henry Morland died on or about the 27th July 1891, some four days after he had resigned his exalted office owing to ill health; and by his death the lodge lost one of its sincerest friends after an unbroken connection of twenty-two years, during which period he had, besides paying his official visits during the tenure of his office, attended numerous meetings as an honorary member and honoured the brethren with his genial company at the banqueting board. The lodge went into mourning till the then next St. Andrew's Day and at its meeting held on 1st August (at which all business previously notified on the summons was adjourned) it passed a resolution recording with the profoundest sorrow "the deep sense of the loss sustained by Freemasonry in general and this lodge in particular on account of the sudden and untimely death of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, one of the strongest, most zealous and devoted supporters and

brightest ornaments of the Craft, who during his long and memorable connection with it exerted himself to the best of his power to spread its principles and diffuse the blessings especially coming to natives of this country, who worked with unerring fidelity to maintain its high character and dignity, whom this lodge had always been proud to acknowledge as one of its best friends, and whose lasting and valuable services rendered to it will always be cherished with the most sincere gratitude by its members." In seconding this resolution which was in fitting terms proposed by Brother T. B. Nariman, Brother K. R. Cama, as the oldest member of the lodge said, "It was Sir Henry who had first put him in the way of becoming useful as a Mason and had encouraged him by appointing him to an office under him in the Grand Lodge. The speaker had constant opportunities of finding that Sir Henry Morland's heart was always in Masonry. He worked for it with some intermissions for twenty-eight years and although at times he felt weary, he never spared himself in promoting the interest of the Craft. During his regime, Freemasonry flourished so highly that he had now lodges in almost every part of India. He was so popular that he never came into conflict with any of the lodges under him. He took very particular interest in this lodge and often spoke of it as No 1 Lodge."

The lodge also passed resolutions condoling with Lady Morland and her children and also the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

The resolutions, together with the proceedings of the evening were, as further resolved by the lodge, duly communicated to the Grand Secretary for being placed at the funeral service which was then to be held and was subsequently held on 2nd August by the Grand Lodge in memory of the deceased. A memorial fund was also raised under the auspices of the Grand Lodge and this lodge subscribe Rs. 100 thereto, on condition that it

should be applied towards perpetuating the memory of the deceased Brother.

Sir Henry had very much interested himself in the Joint Masonic Hall question, but the project was not put through whilst he was alive. The Government had declined to give the site near the Young Men's Christian Association premises for which negotiations had been for some time carried on by Sir Henry, except upon such terms as it gave Government lands to public bodies, and expressed its inability to make any concessions to the two Grand Lodges. The Hall Committee had another scheme now and that was to buy a bungalow at Grant Road, known as the Nawab of Beila's bungalow, and in view of that scheme and in order to be able to know how far that could be put through, they had addressed a letter to the lodge inquiring whether it would make a free gift of the Nowroji Nanabhoy Trust Funds which then amounted to about Rs. 12,000. The question of these funds was then discussed and it was resolved that as the subject was one involving certain legal aspects which required careful consideration, opinion of some Counsel should be taken and the funds should not be disposed of until after Counsel was consulted and as he might advise. Brother H. M. Chichgar, who had all along taken a very keen interest in the matter, volunteered to obtain the opinion of Mr. Farran, then a leader of the Bombay Bar, who later on became a Puisne Judge and then the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay.

Brother H. M. Chichgar was now Senior Grand Warden and Brother Rustom M. Chichgar, Assistant Grand Secretary.

Upon Brother Morland's resignation, Brother J. W. Smith was nominated to the High Office of Grand Master by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He had, it may be said, the strong recommendation of his immediate predecessor and the common consent of all the lodges under

the Scottish banner to the appointment which he so well merited, and he was duly installed in Office at a quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge held on 23rd January 1892 by Brother K. R. Cama, as Past Grand Master Depute.

1892.— Brother T. B. Nariman had so much won the esteem and good opinion of the brethren by his steady and energetic conduct of affairs during the year, that he was re-elected the Master for the next year and he maintained his previous good record.

Brothers J. J. Guzder (Barrister-at-Law) and Shapur N. Bhedwar were affiliated and Mr. Fazulbhai Meherally Chinai was initiated while Brothers G. K. Makanji, G. G. Tejpal and B. F. Lalee resigned during the year. The degree work consisted of one initiation, three passings and four raisings.

It was in this year that Worshipful Brother Dadabhai Nowroji was elected a Member of Parliament. He was the first native of India who secured a seat from the constituency of Finsbury in that august assembly the doors of which until then were taken as locked to Indians, and the lodge unanimously voted an address to him which was duly transmitted to England expressing its great joy at the event which marked a new era in the history of India.

Brother Meherally Devraj Master was known to be ever ready at a moment's notice to serve in any office in the absence of the incumbent or in any case of any emergency and had by his services so willingly and always efficiently rendered, merited recognition which at the installation meeting held on 15th December 1892 was marked by a special unanimous vote of thanks.

Brother D. R. Chichgar was this year appointed to the high office of Grand Master Depute. Rs. 100 were again this year voted to the Scottish Benevolent Fund in the name of Brother Nariman, who was also voted a Past Master's jewel and apron.

1893.—Brother Rustom K. R. Cama succeeded Brother Nariman and it fell to his enviable lot to be the Worshipful Master who before retiring celebrated the 50 years' jubilee of the lodge.

This was the Jubilee year and the Jubilee Meeting was held on 15th December. Brother Cama's rule, except for two events, namely, the deaths of Brothers Pestanji Hormusji Cama, C. I. E., and Sorabji Shapurji Bengalee, C. I. E., was marked by happiness and prosperity.

Brothers Cama and Bengalee were at their deaths honorary members of the lodge and in their memory special funeral lodges were held.

Brother Cama was the uncle of Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama and had been initiated by him, and his joining the lodge had brought several well-known and influential members and greatly added to the prestige of the lodge. He was a zealous Mason and attended all regular meetings and also instruction meetings which in the early days were held as a regular institution and for holding which he had laid at the disposal of the members his own residence at Mazagaon. He took peculiar delight in succouring the needy and distressed and in dispensing, unknown and hidden from popular gaze, charities in a catholic spirit and in every way was true to and practised the excellent precepts of our ancient Order. For his public benevolence and great masonic worth he was made an honorary member of the lodge, but this honour he enjoyed for only a few years. The funeral service was attended by a very large gathering of the lodges working in Bombay under both the Scotch and English Constitutions and resolutions were passed recording the grief of the lodge at his death and condoling with his family. His son Brother Nowroji Pestanji Cama presented to the lodge, which thankfully accepted it, a sum of Rs. 500/ in Government Paper to commemorate his memory, to be credited for charitable purposes in an account to be

entitled "Brother Pestanji Hormusji Cama Charity Fund endowed by his son Brother Nowroji Pestanji Cama."

Within three months, Brother Bengalee followed Brother Cama to the eternal mansions on high, leaving behind his mark as a public spirited citizen of known fame and popularity. The most eloquent testimony to his worth was furnished by the immense gathering that mustered unusually strong to pay its last respects at the time of his funeral and extended from his residence in Parsi Bazar Street (not far from the Bai Bhikhaji Girls' School which he had then but only a few years ago endowed) right up to the premises of Messrs. Kemp & Co. and by his full size statue in marble raised by public subscriptions which now adorns one of the most prominent sites in Bombay near the Bandstand and the Government Secretariat building.

A special funeral lodge was held in his memory by the lodge, which was numerously attended by members of the fraternity under both jurisdictions, including the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and his officers. The ceremony was performed in the customary way, after which Brother K. R. Cama delivered an oration in which he gave a short sketch of the life of the deceased, holding up his example as one worthy of imitation, and resolutions were passed expressive of the deep grief of the lodge at the loss sustained by it and sympathizing with his family in their affliction.

The lodge also unanimously resolved that out of the charity funds a sum of Rs. 1,000 should be set apart to form an endowment fund bearing the name of the deceased Brother.

Brothers Chandavarkar, J. J. Guzder and Haji Ismail Hassam, resigned. But the decrease in the numerical strength caused by deaths and resignations was almost counterbalanced by the admission of three new members,

namely, Messrs. Abdulla Meherally Dharamsi, Gulamhussein Allana and Dr. Framji Jivanji Patel, L.R.C.P., Dentist, of whom the first named two have died since, and the last named has continued as a subscribing member till this day.

The banner of the lodge having been out of order it was resolved that it should be refitted.

The Right Honourable Lord Saltoun who was then Substitute Grand Master of Scotland and four years later succeeded to the exalted throne of Grand Master Mason of Scotland, was in Bombay, and honoured the Grand Lodge of India of All Scottish Freemasonry in India with a visit on 6th April 1893, and on that occasion a deputation from Lodge Rising Star on the invitation of the Grand Lodge had the proud privilege of meeting His Lordship, and to commemorate the visit, Brother Framji Dinsha Petit made a handsome donation of Rupees three hundred to the funds of the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association in India.

Three initiations, two passings and two raisings constituted the degree work done during the year.

The Jamshedi Naoroze festival was held on 21st March under the auspices of Lodges Rising Star, Rising Sun, Eastern Star, Cyrus, Islam and Aryan and under the management of Rising Star, at the Masonic Hall. The programme included the usual prayers and hymns and a "Discourse on the Poetry of the Craft" by Right Worshipful Brother P. N. Wadia, and an entertainment which comprised a farce entitled "A Sudden Arrival" and a comedietta "Marriage by Telephone." With the object of making the festival as attractive and popular as possible the Committee had invited ladies to the banquet and entertainment and a very large number of them, both European and Native, had responded to the invitations, thus lending additional éclat to the entertainment by their presence. Brother Phiroze C. Sethna played an

important character in "The Sudden Arrival." He was "Cornelius Cocker" (an elderly gentleman with a partiality for zoological investigations) and Brother J. K. R. Cama had the rôle of "Marmaduke Twist" (his nephew, with an inclination for convivial association). In the comedietta Brother J. K. R. Cama was "Edward Honeyuckle."

As was customary, the lodge bore a deficit which this year amounted to about Rupees ninety-six, as it had the management of the festival.

The Jubilee of the lodge was celebrated with great éclat on 15th December 1893, in the Freemasons' Masonic Hall the extensive compound of which was transformed into a gaily decorated and extensively illuminated shamiana, the whole of the grounds being carpeted with rich Brussel carpets and the ground floor rooms being converted into a luxurious drawing-room with any amount of floral decorations and the walls being covered with masonic devices woven in flowers and evergreens and the words "Jubilee of Lodge Rising Star" were emblazoned in flowers on a piece of red cloth which served as a screen in front of the main gate.

Brother Framji Dinsha Petit was installed at the meeting held on the same day in the presence of a large gathering of the members of the Fraternity under the Scotch and English constitutions, including the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and representatives of the District Grand Lodge.

To commemorate the occasion a printed short sketch of the history of the foundation of the lodge prepared by the Secretary, Brother P. M. Kanga, and the Senior Deacon, Brother P. C. Sethna, was circulated amongst the members previous to the holding of the meeting, and Brother K. R. Cama, in addition gave at the meeting an account of the foundation of the lodge. Here this Worthy

Brother redeemed in a way the pledge he had given in 1862 to compile a short history. The account is recorded in the minutes and the printed history is also pasted therein. They both give the history from 15th December 1843 to 1845, and the printed sketch also contains "Frater's letter" and Dr. George Oliver's letter already referred to in the previous portion of this history. They both, however, while they are in other respects substantially accurate, except in small details, are deficient in that they do not at all refer to the first refusal of old Lodge Perseverance when under the English banner to admit natives into the Order and their unwillingness to receive Brother Manekji Cursetji, and start only with the matter as it assumed shape after that Brother's return to Bombay from the Continent, a full-pledged Mason, when he was again refused admission as a joining member. Printed leaflets of the said sketch were sent to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and Lodges Perseverance, Islam, Caledonia, Zoaroaster, etc.

In further commemoration of the event the lodge resolved to revive the Founder's or Burne's medal and to strike a new medal to be called the Jubilee Medal and bearing the effigy of Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit and to present same to that Brother to mark the occasion of his being installed into King Solomon's Chair on the occasion of the Jubilee and to evince the regard of the lodge for the great zeal shown by him in the cause of Freemasonry in general and of masonic charities in particular. It was resolved that Brother Secretary, Brother P. M. Kanga, should during the next year compile a history of the lodge from its foundation up to the Jubilee Day.

Following its past traditions and with the object of honouring deserving Masons of good repute and standing on such an important occasion and to lend it further

celebrity, the lodge enrolled as honorary members Right Worshipful Brothers the Honorable Mr. (now Sir) Pherozsha M. Mehta and the Honourable Mr. W. L. Harvey, I. C. S., C. I. E., Worshipful Brothers Jehangir Manekji Cursetji and W. H. Barrow, and Brothers A. F. Moos, Dossabhai Framji Karaka, C.S.I., Rahimtulla Mahomed Sayani and Dr. Atmaram Pandurang.

With the exceptions of Brothers Barrow, Harvey and J. M. Cursetji, the other brethren were previously members of the lodge who one and all, especially Brother P. M. Mehta, had done much to maintain and advance its status and prestige. Brother Karaka made a donation of Rupees fifty to the Charity Funds of the Lodge which was gratefully received in the following year.

Brother Harvey was at this time the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance and his election was attended with special interest as it was made with a special object. Brother K. R. Cama in the account that he gave of the history of the lodge, after recounting in brief the help of the members of Lodge Perseverance in establishing the Lodge in 1843 and the fellowship and good will and brotherly love that had throughout the long period of half a century marked on the whole the relations between these two sister lodges, each of which felt its happiness incomplete without contributing to that of the other, said that on the occasion of the Jubilee celebration festival the lodge had considered it fit and proper that it should recognise its obligations to Lodge Perseverance for giving it a start fifty years ago by electing its Worshipful Master as an honorary member.

Brother Rustom K. R. Cama as the Worshipful Master of the lodge, wrote a letter to Brother Harvey communicating the election (which was made on 2nd December) and it evoked a more than hearty response from that distinguished and Worthy Brother and from his lodge. At a meeting held on 12th December, Lodge Perseverance by

acclamation passed a resolution " That a letter of congratulation be addressed to Lodge Rising Star on the occasion of its attaining its Jubilee," and this resolution was (on the 14th December) conveyed to Brother R. K. R. Cama by Brother Harvey in a letter ( which was read at the meeting and recorded in its minutes ) in which after referring to it and to the close connection between the lodges and the privileges of extra-membership which they had recognised for several years and the temporary estrangement which had at one time existed, but had long since been consigned to oblivion, he wrote:—

" The present members of Lodge Perseverance have every reason to rejoice in the action of their predecessors of fifty years ago in signing the requisition for the foundation of Lodge Rising Star as it has been fully justified by the successful career of a lodge that has given Scottish Freemasonry in India some of its most distinguished members and has ever maintained the high principles which actuated its founders, and they have no less reason to rejoice in the fact that after fifty years of existence, during which both lodges have experienced many vicissitudes, the friendship and brotherly love which bound them in their infancy still unite them in the years of their maturity." The letter concluded with the heartiest congratulations and most cordial good wishes from Lodge Perseverance which indeed were highly appreciated.

Brother Barrow was then the Depute District Grand Master, English Constitution, in charge of the District and had distinguished himself in the masonic world and had established so great a claim on the English Constitution by his valuable and unstinted labours and services that the District Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, had, it is said, resolved to make him a permanent fixture in his high office. He had also always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the lodge and more than merited the honorary membership.

Brother J. M. Cursetji, then Past Master of Lodge Eastern Star No. 1189, English Constitution, was conferred the distinction with the object of preserving the connection of his father Brother Manekji Cursetji's name with the lodge.

To mark its deep sense of the gratitude it owed to Brothers Dr. Burnes and Manekji Cursetji and to carry out its pious desire to preserve their names in their books for ever, the lodge also passed a resolution for transferring a sum of Rs. 2,500 out of the available Charity Funds to be transferred to an account to be opened in their names with a proviso that in case of emergency, the principal amount might itself be utilized whenever deemed necessary. That amount was subsequently transferred and still stands in these two brethren's names and it is hoped will for ever so continue so as to keep evergreen the memory of those two departed souls. Brother Manekji Cursetji was not spared by Providence to be present at the Jubilee celebration, but the brethren, not unmindful of the necessity of his form in any shape being before them had obtained his bust from his son Mr. C. M. Cursetji as a loan for the occasion and exhibited it very prominently.

A contribution of Rs. 500 from the Charity Funds in addition to the sum previously voted by the lodge was made on this occasion to the Morland Memorial Fund, to further mark the sense of esteem in which the late Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India was held, and the names of Brothers M. C. Murzban, R. M. Patel, Hormusji Dadabhai, Maneksha D. Doctor, and Rustom K. R. Cama were associated therewith, as Life Governors of the fund.

A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother Rustom K. R. Cama, and he no doubt most richly deserved it, for the records show that he governed the lodge not only well and wisely, under the watchful eye and careful guidance of his venerable father, though he, contrary to the usual

order of things exacted and was entitled to obedience, but left the lodge better than it was, when he assumed charge financially and otherwise.

Two donations were announced and thankfully accepted at the Jubilee Meeting of Rs. 2,500 each to the Charity Funds of the Lodge ; one from Brother F. D. Petit in commemoration of his being installed into the Eastern Chair on the Jubilee Day, and the other from his esteemed and venerable father, Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit, Baronet, (now of happy memory), in commemoration of the Jubilee. These donations have since formed two of the Endowment Funds of the Lodge, bearing one the name of Brother F. D. Petit and the other that of his father, and the income only of same has been and is being devoted towards the education of children of deceased and indigent Freemasons and the support of poor and distressed people according to the conditions laid down by the generous donors. These were indeed munificent gifts, and in the case of the father clearly showed that he was really a Mason at heart though he had never entered the Order.

Congratulations by letters and telegrams were received not only from local masonic bodies and brethren, but also from lodges and brethren from distant parts of the country such as Ahmedabad, Secunderabad, Dondegal, Mhow, Kirkee, Poona, Indore, Surat, Lanowli, Belgaum, Kurrachee and other places. A letter from Brother J. H. Solomon, Past Master and Secretary of The King Solomon Lodge No. 29 of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, Melbourne, was also read at the meeting. It conveyed an unanimous resolution passed by that lodge at their regular monthly meeting held on 1st November 1893, in the following terms; "That a hearty vote of thanks be recorded in the minute book of the lodge and also be forwarded to the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342, of Scottish Constitution for the many acts of welcome extended by it to Past Master Brother J. Marks and Brother B. Marks, members

of the lodge, during their stay in Bombay whilst touring round the world."

A special feature of the evening was again the presence of Worshipful Brother Dadabhai Nowroji, M.P. Brother K. R. Cama in the course of the history that he narrated had made special mention of this Brother whom he thrice welcomed to his mother-lodge and said that a man of his determination and courage as shown by the public movements of the time in which he took a prominent part, was sure to have rendered vast services to Masonry, but that unfortunately however for Masonry in general and this lodge in particular, but happily for himself and his countrymen, he had a Mission to leave India for England just at the time when he was pitchforked into the Secretaryship of the lodge, soon after his being made a Master Mason, that while there he joined Lodge Dalhousie and became its first native Master, and thereafter became an active member of a couple of lodges in Finsbury (which to the gratification of the teeming millions of India returned him to the British Parliament, to enter which seems to have been an ambition of his life) always keeping his interest in the Craft up to date. Brother K. R. Cama's concluding words were: "In closing let me as my last words send up a fervent prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe that some of our younger members present here to-night may be granted long life to enable them to join the celebration of the century of this lodge on 15th December 1943." Let it be hoped that that prayer will be granted by the Most High.

Thus closed the memorable Jubilee evening with sixty-three subscribing members on the roll and several distinguished honorary members, of whom any lodge may be proud, and funds amounting to nearly Rs. 9,000.

Printed pamphlets of the history of the foundation of the lodge were in due course sent to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Sir Charles Dal-

rymple, Bart., and Right Worshipful Brother the Right Honourable Lord Satton, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and Lodges Perseverance, Islam, Rising Sun, Caledonia, Cyrus, Eastern Star, Aryan, Truth, Zoroaster, and other lodges, who one and all suitably acknowledged the same. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland was graciously pleased to indite an acknowledgment to the Worshipful Master as follows:—

“ New Hailes, Marlborough, E. N.  
Scotland.

*February 8th, 1894.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have to thank you for so kindly sending me copies of the history of your Lodge Rising Star of Western India and I shall read with much interest what has been written on the subject,

I shall take care that the other copies besides that which I shall keep for myself are sent to Grand Lodge.

I think it very kind of you to send me this notice of the fiftieth anniversary of your lodge and I beg to express for myself and for the Grand Lodge of Scotland our sincere congratulations on this occasion and our best hopes for the continued prosperity of your lodge.

I remain,

Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

CHARLES DALRYMPLE.

GRAND MASTER MASON OF SCOTLAND.

The Most Worshipful Brother J. W. Smith, the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, was pleased to write also personally to the Worshipful Master saying, “ I have read the history with the greatest interest and

congratulate you on your being the Jubilee Master of a lodge with so excellent a record. ”

The pamphlets were also sent to the *Indian Masonic Journal*, Madras, and The *Freemason*, London, for publication. Brother D. R. Chichgar was this year appointed Grand Master Depute of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India while Brother F. D. Petit was appointed Junior Grand Warden.

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## CHAPTER XXXII.

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1894.—During the year 1894 five new members were enrolled of whom one was an affiliate and four were initiates. The affiliate was Brother Maneck Rustomji Dossabhai Sethna, hailing from Lodge Marine, Calcutta, and the initiates were Mr. Jijibhai Pramji Petit ( now Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit, Baronet II) and Messrs. Fazulbhai Currimbhai Ibbrahim, Cursetji Hormusji Captain, and Meherji Hormusji Kothari, all of whom, except the last named, it is satisfactory to note, have continued since as subscribing members.

Brother Pestanji Muncherji Nicholson rejoined while Brothers Cursetji Cowasji Mehta and Manekji Hormusji Maju resigned and Brother Jafferbhai Ludhabhai Chatoo died. The lodge recorded in its minutes its expression of grief at the death of Brother Chatoo who was reputed to be a very amiable and zealous Mason and was always known for his truly masonic spirit, and passed votes of sympathy with his bereaved family and his mother-lodge Islam.

There were four initiations, three passings, and three raisings during the year.

Brother Currimbhai Ibbrahim had this year made a princely donation to his co-religionists of Rs. 1,00,000 (one lac) for the founding of an orphanage for the benefit of the poor of his community, and the brethren of the lodge in order to mark their sense of esteem for the donor as well as their appreciation of the noble and philanthropic motives that had actuated his benevolent act voted, by acclamation, an address which was subsequently presented to

him written in gold on parchment and this worthy Brother while acknowledging the high compliment paid to him presented to the lodge a sum of Rs. 250 to be credited to the Charity Funds.

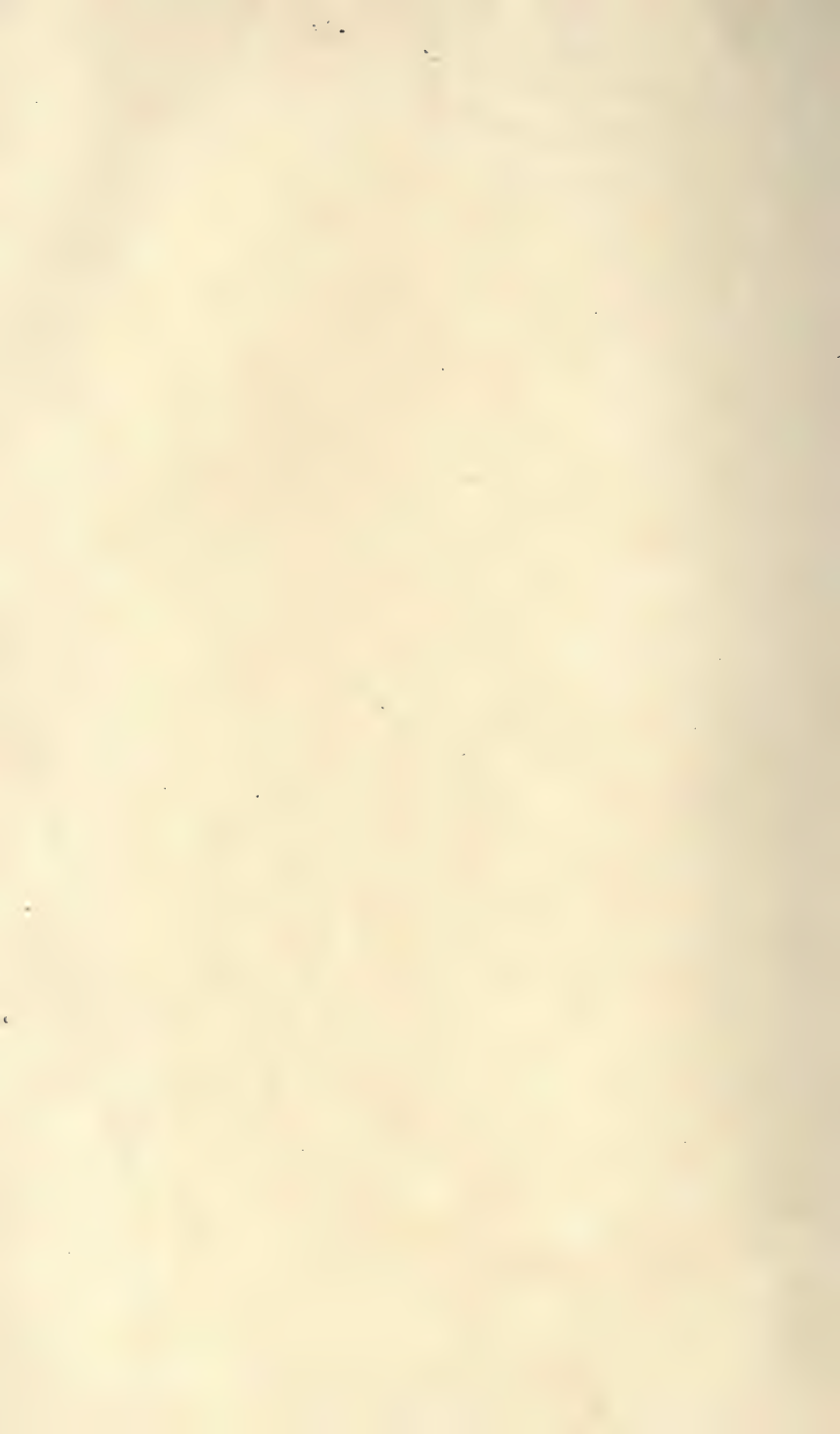
The Jamshedi Naoroze festival was held this year under the management of Lodge Eastern Star, and this time also ladies were invited to the entertainment which formed a part of the usual programme and consisted of vocal and instrumental music and a dramatic performance. A considerable number of the members participated in the festival

The Joint Hall Committee were still evolving some project for a Masonic Temple, and in order not to allow any opportunity to pass without being availed of and to be able to act on the spot without delay and circuitous action resolutions were passed in the beginning of the year by the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, authorising its representatives on the Committee or any Sub-committee appointed by them acting in conjunction with the Board of General Purposes of the District Grand Lodge or its Sub-committee, to acquire either by hire or purchase any building or building site, etc., for a common Masonic Hall with the concurrence of a majority and the Grand Masters of the two constitutions or their deputies or representatives in charge.

The great, if not the chief, stumbling block in the way of having a masonic hall, was not so much in raising funds as in raising the rents of the different bodies under both constitutions meeting therein sufficiently to enable the Hall Committee to pay the interest on the debentures to be issued and to provide a sinking fund with which to liquidate the capital debt in due course. There was no difficulty about getting the debentures subscribed, but the different lodges had demurred to having their rents raised. To surmount this difficulty and to get together a fund on which no interest would



Jubilee Medal—Obverse





Jubilee Medal—Reverse



have to be paid the Grand Lodge at a Communication held on 5th November 1894 passed a resolution on the motion of Right Worshipful K. R. Cama that circulars be sent to the daughter-lodges inviting subscriptions to the Hall Fund, and in order to start the fund it also subscribed Rs. 500 thereto.

The Hall Committee did not renew the lease of the Huntly Lodge at Clare Road which expired in October of this year, but rented other premises, in the Adelphi Hotel, Byculla, where all the bodies thereafter met.

They had previously been negotiating for the purchase of a suitable property and in anticipation of their making a call, in the event of the negotiations being completed, upon Lodge Rising Star for the Nowroji Nanabhai Trust Funds, the lodge appointed a Sub-committee consisting of the Right Worshipful Master Brother F. D. Petit and Brothers K. R. Cama, M. C. Murzban, D. R. Chichgar, H. M. Chichgar, Hormusji Dadabhai, R. M. Patel, M. J. Talyarkhan and Rustom K. R. Cama to consider the Trust Deed with reference to the proposed scheme.

The Jubilee Medal voted for presentation to Brother F. D. Petit was ordered out from Messrs. George Kenning, of Aldergate Street, London. It was in gold, and forty more medals for the brethren in silver also arrived with it. On the obverse of all the medals is the effigy of Brother Framji Dinsha Petit and the inscription "Jubilee 15th December 1893, Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 S. C." on the rim, and on the reverse is shown a star rising from the sea; and the inscription on the rim of all medals except the presentation one "Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit installed 15th December 1893." The presentation medal bore on its rim on the reverse which was made broader than that of the other medals the following inscription :—

... "To Right Worshipful Brother F. D. Petit from Lodge Rising Star No. 342 S. C., Bombay, 15th December 1893."

The medal was presented to Brother Petit at the installation meeting, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering, at the hands of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India who in a short but felicitous speech paid a high and fitting tribute to the sterling masonic qualities of the recipient of the honour who, he said, was a "brilliant star in the masonic firmament emulating a brightness of the heavenly bodies from which the Eastern Star, of which he was a child since 1883, and the Rising Star, to which he was affiliated five years later, had derived their names." Brother Petit had during his régime established more than ever before his claim to the esteem and regard of the brethren over whom he ruled and whose happiness, it is said, by all the means in his power he strove to advance, and to mark such esteem in a permanent form, the lodge voted a Past Master's jewel and presented to him at this installation meeting a walnut wood writing-desk costing Rs. 332 and a walnut wood stand with chiming bells. The desk was to remind him that labour was the lot of man and that while it was day he must work and also that it was made from a tree which was a native of Persia, as all Parsis were, and that it was a large tree, with spreading branches, which would always recall to his mind that from the strong trunk "Lodge Rising Star," other native lodges had emanated, and further that like the timber of the walnut, which was very durable, reliable and could take the finest polish, good Masons could become highly polished gentlemen and valuable members of society if they only paid proper attention to the useful lessons laid down in the rituals. The chiming bells were to serve as a remembrance of the many pleasant hours spent by the worthy Brother within the sacred walls of the lodge and also to bid him attend a call to duty and that of humanity and thereby giving him an opportunity of doing good to his fellow-creatures in the

hour of their distress. Brother Petit was now Substitute Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

Rs. 100/ were voted to the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association in India and the name of Brother M. J. Talyarkhan was later on associated with it so as to make him a life-governor of that fund.

1895.—Brother Petit's stewardship ended and Brother M. J. Talyarkhan's commenced on 15th December, 1894, with 56 Subscribing Members on the roll, of whom 42 were full members, against 39 at the end of last year, and General Funds amounting to Rs 2,431-8-4 and Charity Funds to Rs. 11,554-10-6.

But Brother Petit was not destined to live long to continue the good work which as a man and Mason he had so far done, for the cruel hand of death removed him from this earthly tabernacle to the sublunary abode above on 8th August 1895 to the great sorrow of his aged father, his family and friends and the whole masonic fraternity. He was still at his death Substitute Grand Master; and according to the constitutions a special Funeral Lodge was held in his memory by the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India on 28th August.

Lodge Rising Star, in consequence, refrained from holding a Lodge of Sorrow but passed a resolution expressing sorrow and sympathy with the family of the deceased Brother in their sad bereavement.

Brother Pirosha Bomanji Jijibhai was affiliated and Messrs. Dossabhai Framji Wadia (the author of this History), Kavasji Dadabhai Hormusji Dubash, Bomanji Ardesir Dalal, Framroze Pestanji Doctor, Ardesir Framji Unwala, and Nanabhai Muncherji Nowroji Banaji were initiated during the year and the degree work consisted of 5 initiations, 4 passings, and 4 raisings.

Brother M. J. Talyarkhan made a very popular and gentle Master and though he could not work the lodge

as often as he could wish owing to the heavy call on his attention to his professional work he always looked with a watchful eye to the best interests of the lodge. It is well known that in working the degrees he did not adhere to the strict letter or form of the ritual, but carried out concisely and substantially the spirit thereof.

Brother M. M. Bhownugree was the second native of India, who this year succeeded in entering the British House of Commons from Bethnall Green, and the lodge rejoiced at this event which brought the highest honours again to one of its members, and addressed to him a special letter of congratulation and it also passed a special resolution of welcome when this Brother visited it after his return from England in the following year.

Right Worshipful Brother Cowasji Dadabhai Furdoonji (known familiarly as Brother C. D. Furdoonji) who is a prominent figure in the Craft in Bombay and can claim connection with more lodges than one either as Founder or Member, Ordinary or Honorary, had until now (as he has also since) favoured Lodge Rising Star with his visits whenever sought, and even served it on occasions. His name as a Visiting Brother can be traced in the records of the lodge so far back as 1869. Great service was rendered by him on the occasion of the Jubilee when he and Brothers Murzban and D. R. Chichgar looked after the decorations and exhibited not only good æsthetic taste and arrangements but left nothing undone to make the occasion a great success from every point of view. In token of the appreciation of his services on that memorable occasion the lodge presented to him a silver Jubilee Medal which he was kind enough to accept.

The lodge took part in the Jamshedi Naoroze festival which was celebrated this year under the management of Lodge Rising Sun and in the same manner as during the preceding two years.

1896.—The year commenced with 54 members on the roll of whom 42 were full paying members. Brother Fazalbai Visram was installed in the Eastern Chair on 1st February 1896. During his regime the numerical strength decreased by one member. There was one resignation and two deaths and one member's name was struck off for default in payment of lodge dues and these were counterbalanced by two affiliations and one initiation. The resigning member was Brother (now Sir) Dorab J. Tata and the member struck off was Brother Muljibhai Jivraj while the two that passed away from this transitory world were Brothers Pestanji Muncherji Nicholson and Nanabhai M. Banaji. The latter was the very youngest member, who had joined the lodge only four months before, and was a promising Brother who, if life had been spared to him, would have made a valuable and useful Member of the Craft, and on his death the lodge duly recorded a vote of sympathy with the family of the deceased in their sad and deplorable loss. The affiliates were Brothers Dhanjibhai Merwanji Jijibhai and Ratansha Kershaspi Dadachanji and the initiate was Mr. Manekji Cowasji Petit.

A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother M. J. Talyarkhan and Rs. 200/ were contributed to the Scottish Benevolent Association of India.

The Jamshedi Naoroze festival was held this year under the management of Lodge Cyrus and the members of the lodge largely participated in it.

The Masonic Hall question was now nearing a definite solution after several years' labour and discussion. The site on which the Hall now stands was pointed out by Worshipful Brother G. O. W. Dunn, then Depute District Grand Master of Bombay, and an energetic member of the Hall Committee, and on the same being approved negotiations for acquiring it were carried on and brought to a head through Brother the Honble. Nowroji N. Wadia with

Government, and the Hall Committee had formulated a scheme for the acquisition and construction of the Hall, and in order to enable it to carry it out had issued circulars in the beginning of the year to the different Lodges, Chapters, and Bodies working under the two constitutions as well as others meeting in the Hall, inquiring what amount of debentures the members individually would take and whether their charitable and other funds could be relied upon to take debentures at 4 per cent. per annum and to what extent.

The Hall Committee then also inquired of the lodge whether it would hand over to them the Nowroji Nana-bhai Trust Funds and what memorial would be required to fulfil the Trust.

The matter was then discussed and the lodge resolved to take the opinion of the Advocate-General as to whether the Trustees of the fund could give it to the Joint Hall Committee for the building of the proposed Hall and it unanimously resolved to invest Rs. 5,000/ out of the Charity funds in the 4 per cent. debentures and further made a donation of Rs. 500/ to the Building Fund out of its Charity funds.

Counsel's opinion was accordingly taken on a case submitted by Brother H. M. Chichgar's firm of Messrs. Nanu and Hormusji and the Hall Committee were thereafter informed that the funds would be handed over but that the land for the new Masonic Hall should be acquired in the name of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and that the Hall should be named the "Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall."

Thereupon correspondence took place between Brother H. M. Chichgar and Brother Richard Sneade Brown (the President of the Hall Committee) who was a zealous and hardworking Mason and cordially advanced the scheme, and also between the Hall Committee Secretary and the Trustees of the Fund. The Advocate-General

had advised the institution of a friendly suit by the lodge against the Trustees of the Fund for the administration of the Trust Funds.

The whole question was left by the lodge to the Standing Committee for final disposal with liberty to make such terms for the transfer of the Trust Funds as to them might seem proper and also to arrange for the institution of the suit.

The Hall Committee meanwhile with the object of facilitating the acquirement of the funds and strengthening the Trustees' hands in going to the Court addressed the Trustees a letter undertaking that there should be erected in the Hall a tablet bearing the following inscription :—

“The Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall. Part of the expenses of the erection of this Hall was met by the contribution of funds held on the Trusts created by the Worshipful Brother N. N. Framji of Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 S. C., and by the leave of the High Court in accordance with which this Hall is to be called by the above name.”

The Standing Committee resolved that a suit should be filed for the administration of the Trust Funds provided the Banqueting Hall be simply called the Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall without any addition or qualification whatever, and that a suitable tablet bearing the said title be affixed at the entrance of the said hall, and that such tablet be at all times properly maintained. and further that a member of Lodge Rising Star be at all times appointed a member of the Hall Committee.

This resolution after being adopted by the lodge was in due course communicated to the Joint Hall Committee who thankfully accepted the terms therein embodied and the necessary steps for filing the friendly suit were then taken.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

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1897.—At the installation meeting held on 15th December at which Brother P. M. Kanga was installed as Worshipful Master, the lodge had the honour of a visit from Worshipful Brother His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Sandhurst, G. C. I. E., Pro-District Grand Master of Bombay E. C. His Lordship was the first Governor of the Presidency of Bombay who graced the lodge with his presence and was accorded a hearty and fitting welcome, and in acknowledging it in a felicitous short speech, wished the lodge every success. His Excellency's kindness was appreciated all the more highly as he had, as was then well known, attended at great personal inconvenience and when he could spare but little time owing to his multifarious public duties which engrossed his sympathetic and close attention in the amelioration of the distress then generally prevalent.

His Lordship was at this very meeting proposed as an Honorary Member and was early in the following year duly elected as such and was pleased to convey his acceptance of the honour in a letter addressed by him to the Right Worshipful Master.

Brother Nowroji Nusserwanji Wadia, C. I. E. (now a member of the Legislative Council of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay) and Brother Bejonji Nanabhai Kapadia (both since gone to the Grand Lodge above) were affiliated and Mr. Surosh K. R. Cama, a third son of Brother K. R. Cama and introduced by the latter, was initiated this year. But the lodge was again unfortunate in having to suffer by the deaths of Brothers the Honour-

able Abdulla M. Dharamsi and Dhanjibhai Merwanji Jijibhai, and further Brothers Shapoor N. Bhedwar, Ardesir C. Homji, D. H. Karaka and Fazalbhai M. Chinai resigned during the year.

Resolutions of regret were duly recorded in the minutes of the lodge on the deaths of Brothers D. M. Jijibhai and Dharamsi.

The affiliation fee was raised from Rs. 25 to Rs. 75, and the joining fee from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 as from October of this year.

The friendly suit for the administration of the Nowroji Nanabhai Trust Funds was filed about the middle of this year. It was suit No. 352 of 1897, and at the end of the year still awaited trial.

Messrs Nanu and Hormusji, Solicitors, were the attorneys for the lodge as also the Trustees of the Fund.

For the first time in the history of Freemasonry in India both the English and Scotch constitutions were placed under the presidency and government of one and the same Brother. That unique position fell to the lot of Right Worshipful Brother Lord Sandhurst who, on Right Worshipful Brother J. W. Smith, then Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, retiring, was nominated in his place to fill that exalted position by the Grand Lodge of Scotland on 4th June 1897. His Lordship was duly installed in his high office at a special convocation of the Grand Lodge held on that day at the Novelty Theatre, which was converted into a masonic temple for the occasion, and Lodge Rising Star took part in that pleasing function. The union of the two highest posts in the sister constitutions in the person of such a high and eminent Mason meant, as was later on evidenced, by a still closer union than then existed between the bodies under either banner and the individual members thereof. His Excellency in spite of the various calls on his attention owing to public exigencies was still able, as he was

at the same time always anxious, to devote some time to masonic affairs, and it was to his great impetus and encouragement that the Masonic Temple became in his time an accomplished fact.

On 5th June 1897, His Excellency as the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and Pro-District Grand Master of Bombay, laid the foundation stone of the Masonic Hall in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of the members of the fraternity and the public. A special convocation of the Grand Lodge was held again at the Novelty Theatre, situate opposite to the site of the Hall. After both the Grand Lodges were opened and temporarily adjourned, and the brethren had in two columns abreast marched from the theatre to the site where the stone was placed, the Grand Master arrived in a procession and with all customary formalities laid the foundation stone. Lodge Rising Star was largely represented on the occasion. At the ceremony a history of the movement for a joint masonic hall compiled by Right Worshipful Brother J. W. Smith was read in which the following remarks were *inter alia* made :—

“ The Masonic Fraternity at the same time are grateful to the Trustees and Members of Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342, Scottish Constitution, for their co-operation and for the conditional promise of their handsome contribution of about Rs. 13,000, being the Trust money left by the late Brother Nowroji Nanabhai Framji Banaji for building a Hall to be called ‘ The Framji Cowasji Masonic Hall.’ The terms on which Lodge Rising Star is willing to part with the money are that after the institution of a friendly suit [the High Court shall permit the administration accordingly of the Trust Fund of the Nowroji Nanabhai Settlement provided that the Banqueting Hall be called the Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall, that a suitable tablet bearing the said title be affixed at the entrance to the said hall or on a

conspicuous part of the said hall, that such tablet be at all times properly maintained, and further that a member of Lodge Rising Star be at all times appointed one of the members of the Hall Committee. These terms having been considered reasonable have been accepted by the Hall Committee, and they have requested the Trustees of the Fund and the lodge to jointly proceed at an early date to institute the suggested suit and obtain leave of the High Court to pay over the Trust Funds to the Freemasons' Joint Hall Committee on the conditions agreed upon."

The lodge had already made a donation of Rs.500 to the Building Fund and individual members between themselves made donations amounting in all to Rs.3,300 of which Rs.1,000 were contributed by Brother Jijibhai Framji Petit in memory of his father, and Rs. 500 by Brother Currimbhai Ibbrahim; and a Parsi gentleman had also contributed Rs. 1,000 to the fund through the lodge. Brother Nowroji Manekji Wadia, C. I. E., the great Parsi millionaire and philanthropist and an ex-member of the lodge, also made a donation through the lodge of Rs. 1,000 in memory of his mother the late Bai Motlabai Jehangir Wadia.

A list of the donations was appended to the history read at the laying of the foundation stone, and it appears therefrom that Lodge Rising Star stands out first and foremost therein.

Later on, by the end of the year, two further donations were made to the Building Fund, viz; Rs. 1,000 by Brother Manekji Kavasji Petit in memory of his late father Mr. Cowasji Dinshaw Petit, and Rs.1,000 subscribed by Sir Jehangir Cowasji Jehangir, Knight (who has since assumed the name and title of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Baronet) and others, and sent through the lodge to perpetuate the memory of the late Worshipful Brother Dhanjibhai Merwanji Jijibhai. Brothers the Hon. N. N. Wadia and

D. R. Chichgar were appointed by the Grand Lodge Trustees of the New Hall.

The installation meeting was held on 15th December and the lodge had the honour of a second visit from the Most Worshipful Brother H. E. Lord Sandhurst. It was a matter of peculiar gratification to the lodge to find that that was the first official visit of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India to a daughter-lodge at its installation meeting after assuming the reins of his exalted office. In spite of the numerous calls he had necessarily to attend to in the discharge of his multifarious duties in the government of the Presidency, His Lordship had readily responded to the call of his masonic duty and by his presence invested the proceedings of the evening with special interest, to the great gratification of the brethren. After the retiring Master, Brother P. M. Kanga, had rendered an account of his stewardship His Lordship addressed the brethren and in doing so shared in the regret caused by the deaths of the late Brothers the Hon. Abdulla Dharamsi and Dhanjibhai Merwanji Jijibhai, and paid a tribute to the former who, he said, was not only a distinguished citizen but was also a clever and skilful professional man and a zealous and painstaking member of the Legislative Council. His Excellency also paid a special compliment to the lodge on the prosperous condition of its finances, which now, after all disbursements and donations, stood at Rs. 2,148-6-0 general account and Rs. 11,487-7-2 charity account. He then introduced to the lodge a distinguished Mason, namely, Brother E. F. G. Hatch, M. P. for the Eastern Division of Lancashire, who was then on a visit to India and was a guest at Government House, and in conclusion observed that he had been looking forward then for some time to visit the lodge and that the large number of brethren he saw before him outdid his expectations, and that he was pleased to observe that in the lodge Europeans, Hindus, Mussalmans, and

Parsis all united together in one bond of friendship and that a better verification of the many advantages of Freemasonry could not be found.

Brother Hatch, on being requested by the Worshipful Master to address the brethren, said that it had given him great pleasure to attend the lodge, where he was glad to observe the representatives of the different communities of Bombay, and that he was glad that H. E. Lord Sandhurst had given him an opportunity of seeing the inside of a native lodge, and that he would carry home with him a pleasant impression of his visit as it was one of the most interesting sights he had yet seen in India.

The Most Worsipful the Grand Master as also Brother Hatch were suitably thanked by the newly installed Master, Brother Phiroze C. Sethna, who in the course of his remarks alluded in becoming praise to the great ability and judiciousness shown by the Grand Master in the advancement of both sections of the Craft and the impetus given to the development of Masonry in a marked degree and his encouragement in the matter of the Masonic Hall and above all his great urbanity, large-heartedness, and benevolence of spirit which had won for him amongst the Masons of his generation ungrudging regard, esteem, and attachment, and concluded by saying that the Masons of the next generation might well refer to him and say that he :—

“ Above the rest  
In shape and nature proudly eminent  
Stood like a tower.”

At the installation meeting a third contribution of Rs. 150 was voted to the Henry Morland Memorial Fund and a Past Master's Jewel was voted to Brother P. M. Kanga.

Brother H. M. Chichgar was now Honorary Substitute Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

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1898.—The year 1898 began with 56 members on the roll and 5 more were added during the year, *viz.*, Mr. Pirosha Dadabhai Manekji Sett, Dr. Dossabhai Cursetji Rustomji Sethna and Dr. Dhanjibhai Rustomji Ardesir Wadia who were initiated and Brother Pestanji Cowasji Pallonji Sethna, affiliated from Lodge Royal Sussex of Shanghai, China, No. 501 E. C., and Brother Kavasji Byramji Shroff who came as a joining member from Lodge Hamilton, No. 584 S. C., Surat.

There was not a single resignation but there were two deaths. Brother Burjorji Pallonji Dollimeherji died on 23rd February 1898 and a special Lodge of Sorrow was held in his memory on the 5th March following. After the funeral service was performed in the customary manner Brother K. R. Cama delivered an oration suitable to the occasion, in which he differentiated between Masons of a day who gave up after being initiated, Masons who worked up to the Master's chair and whose interest thereafter ceased, and Masons who continued active members of their lodge all their life, and he held forth to the younger Masons the instance of the deceased Brother who was initiated in the lodge so far back as 20th May 1870 and who although he had never occupied the chair had yet continued to be an active member up to his death and had all along proved his usefulness in a quiet, unostentatious manner. He also recounted the many good qualities of the late lamented Brother and interposed his oration with much masonic knowledge. Resolutions were also passed recording the great regret of the lodge at the

death and expressing sympathy with the family of the deceased.

Brother Dr. Atmaram Pandurang, an Honorary Member of the lodge, died within three months afterwards.

The degree work during the year consisted of three initiations, one passing and one raising, and some useful lectures were delivered by Brothers D. R. Chichgar and F. J. Patel on balloting and on the tracing board respectively.

The friendly suit filed by the lodge last year for the administration of the Nowroji Nanabhai Trust Funds was decided and a decree was passed therein by the Honourable Mr. Justice Fulton on 17th January 1898 as prayed for, permitting the Trustees to hand over the funds to the Joint Masonic Hall Committee on the agreed terms. (See appendix Q for a copy of the decree.) The decree was then referred to the Standing Committee with power to them to finally dispose of the matter. Draft of an agreement between the Trustees of the Fund and the Hall Committee (not as such Committee only but also for and on behalf of the persons for the time being owners of the Masonic Temple and so as to bind the said temple) was prepared by the Solicitors and was in due course submitted to the Standing Committee, who considered and approved of the same at a meeting at which Brother Nanu Narayan Kothare, partner in the firm of Messrs. Nanu and Hormusji, attended by invitation of the Standing Committee to assist them in their deliberations in the absence of Brother H. M. Chichgar, who had proceeded to England on business, and the draft as settled by the Standing Committee was submitted to the Hall Committee for their acceptance.

The Hall Committee approved of the draft with this exception, however, that a member representing Lodge Rising Star on their Committee should be elected not by the lodge as proposed in the draft but be appointed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of all Scottish Free-

masonry in India. The point was discussed in the Standing Committee and they were in favour of a proposal, to submit every year names of three or four members, of whom one should be selected by the Grand Master, and Brother H. M. Chichgar (who had returned from England) was authorised to make the necessary alterations in the draft received back from the Hall Committee, and a communication on the subject was also addressed to the Grand Secretary with a view to its being placed before the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, which proposed the arrangement that the member from Lodge Rising Star should always be annually selected by the lodge itself and that his name should be submitted for nomination to the Grand Master at least one month before the time fixed for the election of members of the Hall Committee by the Grand Master, and that in case of the death, resignation, or other incapacity of such member, a fresh selection should be made, the lodge submitting for nomination the name of another member within two months from the happening of such death, resignation, or incapacity.

The Grand Master was pleased to sanction this arrangement, allowing the nomination of a member on the Hall Committee to rest with the lodge.

The agreement (*vide* Appendix R) was then in due course drawn up and executed and the balance of the Trust Funds, consisting of Government Paper of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., of the nominal value of Rs. 13,400, and cash amounting to Rs. 1,536-7-1 (being Rs. 9,000 the sale proceeds of the land originally held on trust and accumulated interest thereon) after deducting Rs. 672-12-0 for out-of-pocket costs only in connection with the friendly suit, were handed over to the Hall Committee in October 1908. Brother K. R. Cama was appointed the member from the lodge on the Hall Committee pursuant to the arrangement which was sanctioned before by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

The lodge also recorded a resolution in the minutes, when the funds were handed over, thanking the Trustees for the ability, the zeal, and the judiciousness with which they had carried out so long the management of the Trust Funds.

Brother Hormusji M. Chichgar and his firm were also thanked for the services rendered by them in connection with the friendly suit and the carrying out of the decree passed therein.

A testimonial was got up by Lodge Perseverance to Right Worshipful Brother J. W. Smith, Immediate Past Grand Master, in recognition of the services rendered by him to the Craft, and was to consist of an oil-painting of that Brother, and the lodge subscribed its mite thereto.

Rs. 100 were as usual subscribed this year also to the Soottish Benevolent Association of India.

For the third time the lodge had the honour of being visited by His Excellency Lord Sandhurst at the installation meeting held on 15th December, when Brother P. C. Sethna was re-installed in King Solomon's chair, that Brother having by his conduct in it, during the preceding twelve months, won so far the esteem and approbation of the brethren as to merit being entrusted with the hiram a second time. It was announced at this meeting in the course of the account of the Worshipful Master's stewardship that in addition to the Nowroji Nanabhai Trust Funds, amounting to Rs. 15,000, the munificent sum of Rs. 23,000 had through the medium of the lodge been subscribed to the Masonic Hall Building Fund by individual members and others connected with it, viz., Sir Dinsha Manekji Petit, Baronet ( who had made handsome donations to perpetuate the memory of his son the late Brother Framji Dinsha Petit ) Sir Jehangir Cowasji Jehangir and others and that the lodge had made a further donation of Rs. 300 since the donation of Rs. 500 made in the preceding year, and the members had

amongst themselves subscribed a further sum of Rs. 500 in commemoration of His Excellency's visit that evening, both of which sums were intended to be presented to the New Temple which was thus getting nearly one-fifth of the total outlay on it from and through Lodge Rising Star.

At this meeting the Most Worshipful the Grand Master paid the lodge special honour by obligating Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Pollen as Grand Master Depute of all Scottish Freemasonry in India.

His Excellency addressed the members at some length and in doing so paid Brother P. C. Sethna a high compliment for the ability and precision with which he had performed the ceremony that evening, and congratulated the lodge on the harmony and good-fellowship that prevailed therein and the large and representative gathering of Masons such as he had never witnessed, he said, in any other lodge, and the generous way in which they had contributed to the new Masonic Temple.

It might here be mentioned that in consideration of the substantial contribution by the Petit family towards the Building Fund and as a mark of respect and esteem for the late Right Worshipful Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit the Hall Committee resolved that the second Dining Hall or Committee Room should be called "the Framji Dinshaw Petit Banqueting Hall" and that a suitable tablet bearing an inscription to this effect be placed in the said room. This was done and later on a medallion of the late Brother was presented by his widow Bai Awabai to be placed in the Hall with a marble tablet as was proposed by the Hall Committee with a suitable inscription, and this medallion has since been placed in that Hall.

Brother M. C. Murzban was now Honorary Grand Master Depute and Brother H. M. Chichgar Substitute Grand Master and Brother Pestanji M. Kanga was

Assistant Grand Secretary of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

In the year 1899 nine more members were added, viz., Dr. Hormusji Manekji Masina, F. R. C. S., London, Shamshul Ulma Jivanji Jamsetji Mody, Mr. Bomanji Dinshaw Petit, and Mr. Darasha Bejonji Mehta (Solicitor) who were initiated, and Brother Dr. Meherjibhai Rustomji Sethna, who was affiliated from Lodge Victoria No, 1026 E. C., Hongkong. Brother (now Sir) N. G. Chandavarkar rejoined the lodge, and three distinguished brethren were made Honorary Members, namely, Right Worshipful Brother Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, the Chief Justice of Bombay, and District Grand Master, E. C., Dr. John Pollen, Grand Master Depute of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and Brother I. M. Shields.

Brothers Hormusji Dadabhai and R. K. Dadachanji resigned and Brother Dr. Atmaram Pandurang died.

The degree work consisted of four initiations, three passings, and three raisings.

An attempt was made this year on the suggestion of Brother K. R. Cama to revive the Jamshedji Naoroze masonic festival which had been for some reasons in abeyance for the last three years, and to invite all sister-lodges to take part and co-operate therein.

The New Masonic Hall was now an accomplished fact after the project for it was first mooted about 43 years ago.

His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in India and District Grand Master of Bombay, performed the ceremony of consecrating it for the meetings in future of all masonic bodies working under the two jurisdictions, on 25th March 1899, which was a red-letter day in the annals of Masonry, in the presence of a brilliant and numerous gathering of Masons of all castes, colours, and creeds. Lodge Rising Star was largely represented at the

function. An anonymous donor presented Rs. 5,000 to the Hall Building Fund to perpetuate the regime of His Excellency as District Grand Master and Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in India, on condition that the Temple should be named after His Excellency and that no individual's name should be thereafter associated with the entire Masonic Hall. The Temple was accordingly named "Lord Sandhurst Temple." It may be noted here that the very first meeting held by a daughter-lodge in the Masonic Hall was held by Lodge Rising Star.

It had occurred to some members of the Fraternity that that occasion would be a fitting one to reward Brother D. R. Chichgar for the valuable services rendered by him as Honorary Secretary to the Hall Committee ever since its formation and to show the esteem in which he was held, and a circular was issued to all the lodges in both constitutions, over the signatures of Right Worshipful Brothers Dr. John Pollen and I. M. Shields, inviting subscriptions, limited to one rupee per member, from which it was proposed to present a testimonial and an album containing the autographs of all the subscribers thereto. The circular was very heartily responded to and the subscriptions enabled the promoters of the movement, which, it may be stated, had the hearty support of H. E. Lord Sandhurst as the head of the two constitutions, to purchase a silver bowl and cup, and the articles were presented to Brother Chichgar by the Grand Master at the consecration ceremony of the Hall as a fitting token of the distinguished and valuable services rendered by him for over 20 years to the Fraternity at large and particularly the Hall Committee.

The following sums were voted by the lodge this year, viz:—

(1) Rs. 10 per mensem to the A. F. Solon Memorial Fund, which was started by Lodge Rising Sun to afford relief to the family of Brother A. F. Solon, one of its Past Masters and Grand Senior Warden of All Scottish

Freemasonry in India; (2) Rs. 10 (second donation) towards the cost of the oil painting of Brother J. W. Smith, Past Grand Master, and (3) Rs. 200 to the Masonic Hall Building Fund.

The brethren had between themselves raised subscriptions in honour of the visit of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Lord Sandhurst, again at the installation meeting this year and the Rs. 200 voted by the lodge were added thereto to make up Rs. 1,000, which entire sum was devoted to the funds of the Hall Committee with a request to the Trustees of the Hall to credit the amount in the name of Brother Darasha R. Chichgar. This was the farewell visit of His Excellency to the lodge, for early next year he relinquished the reins of government and, with that, of his office as the First Mason in the Presidency. During the year two donations were made to the Charity Funds of the lodge, *viz.*, Rs. 200 left by the late Brother Dr. Atma-ram Pandurang as a bequest to the lodge by his last will and received from his executors, on condition that the amount should be credited in an account to be opened in the name of that deceased Brother and the interest thereon should be utilized for charitable purposes, and Rs. 150 from Brother A. F. Unwalla in memory of his late mother Bai Dinbai. Further, at the installation meeting Brother J. F. Petit, who was installed in the Eastern Chair, presented to the lodge the handsome sum of Rs 1,000 as a contribution to the Charity Funds. At the close of the year the funds stood at Rs. 2,769-13-4 in the general account and Rs. 11,285-13-2 in the charity account making a grand total of Rs 14,055-10-6. Brother P. C. Sethna was voted a Past Master's jewel and apron in recognition of the ability and zeal with which he had governed the lodge during two years.

Brother K. R. Cama was nominated to represent the lodge on the Hall Committee,

Brother M.C. Murzban was now Honorary Grand Master Depute. It was resolved about the close of this year that a new banner should be ordered out for the lodge and that the work should be entrusted to some artist in Bombay, the design of the old banner being retained as far as possible, and the matter was referred to the Standing Committee and that body entrusted the work to a Subcommittee consisting of Brothers K. R. Cama, M. C. Murzban, and D. R. Chichgar.

1900.—In the commencement of Brother J. F. Petit's rule, the lodge suffered a heavy blow in the death of a very useful member, namely, Worshipful Brother the Hon'ble. N. N. Wadia, C. I. E., which took place on 19th December 1899. This Brother was an eminent citizen of real worth and was possessed of attainments of a very high order and above all of that virtue which is the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart, namely, charity. He had identified himself with several institutions in Bombay and was known for his good work not easily to be forgotten, and in Masonry he had left his mark, not easily to be effaced. A special Lodge of Sorrow was held in his memory on 13th January 1900, at which after the customary service was performed and an oration suitable to the occasion was delivered by Brother D. R. Chichgar, the lodge passed resolutions expressing its deep grief at the death of the departed Brother and condoling with his family. Within three months the lodge had again to mourn another loss, *viz.*, of Brother Jamsetji Cursetji Cama, whose agreeable and pleasing manners and quiet and unostentatious deportment and readiness to do all he could for the brethren after the noble example his late lamented father Brother Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama had set before him, had won the affection and esteem of the whole lodge. His face always wore a laugh, and he was never known to frown, and whether at the meetings or at the festive boards his genial personality always made itself felt. He

never sought but was always sought after, and for his amiability and uniform courtesy and warm-hearted friendship he was as widely known in the circles outside as within the sacred walls of the lodge. He was several times offered the chair of the lodge, but declined the honour. He died on 20th March 1900, and a Lodge of Sorrow was held in his memory on 7th April following, at which the customary service was held and a resolution passed condoling with his family.

The lodge was really very unfortunate, for Brother Maneksha Jehangirsha Talyarkhan followed Brother J. C. Cama to the eternal mansions on high within another three months, on 16th June 1900. This Brother had endeared himself to the members of the lodge by his very genial and suave temperament, by his square conduct, and devotion to the best interests of the lodge and the advancement of the common happiness of the brethren. While travelling in Europe this worthy Brother met with a premature and sudden death as one of the victims in what was known as the Slough Railway Accident, and the news of his death filled the brethren with inexpressible grief, as it overwhelmed his near and dear ones and all who knew him. A life full of hopes, a man who was an ornament to his country, and a brother who loved and was loved by all, was thus cut off in the prime of life. A Funeral Lodge was held in his memory on 7th July, at which the usual resolutions were passed, and he was held up by those who spoke on the occasion as an example worthy of imitation; whose place it was difficult to fill. Condolences were received from the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and Lodges St. George, Rising Sun, etc.

Brother Phiroze C. Sethna, who was travelling with Brother Talyarkhan, narrowly escaped the same fate and was by Divine Providence saved to his family and friends to their great and unbounded joy, having been actually snatched from the jaws of death.

Brothers R. K. Dadachandji and A. F. Bahadurji and Hormusji Dadabhai resigned.

Brothers Jehangir Bomanji Petit, Noshirwan Pirosha Dubash, and Abdeali M. Kajiji (Barrister-at-Law) were affiliated, while Messrs. Jamshed Maneksha Doctor and Dossabhai Dadabhai Allbless and Dr. Sorab Cowasji Hormusji were initiated this year. Numerically therefore the lodge stood at the end of the year as at the commencement thereof.

The degree work consisted of three initiations and a like number of passings and raisings.

H. E. Lord Sandhurst was about to depart from India in the beginning of the year, and the English and Scottish Grand Lodges had jointly recorded a resolution expressing their regret at his intended departure and their sense of appreciation of the services rendered by him during his régime to the Fraternity at large. His Excellency was also entertained at a farewell banquet followed by a reception on 9th February 1900, at the Masonic Hall. On this occasion His Lordship presented to Brother D. R. Chichgar an autograph album in recognition of his work in the cause of Freemasonry and the Masonic Hall, and as a testimony of the good will and good wishes of all Masons in India, and in making the presentation said:—

“His masonic work you know full well, and indeed if we are comparing notes as to whom thanks are due for the existence of this Hall I will certainly put Right Worshipful Brother Chichgar at the top of the poll. I think I said at the opening of this Hall that if I had been lacking in my subscription to the funds of the Hall and I had my hundred rupee note in my pocket and I had seen Right Worshipful Brother Chichgar I should have taken to my heels as fast as I could, for I am perfectly certain that he could have got it out of my innermost pocket.”

To the reception, which was largely attended by Masons, the ladies of their families were also invited.

His Excellency was succeeded in the post of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master by his successor in the office of the government of the Presidency, namely, the Right Honourable Henry Stafford Baron Northcote, G.C.I.E., C. B., who was duly installed therein on 17th December 1900, having been appointed to fill that office by a commission issued under the signatures of the Honourable James Hozier, M. P., Grand Master Mason, and D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary, under date 31st May 1900. Lord Northcote was Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire and also District Grand Master of Bombay and its territories. Again therefore and for the second time the two Grand Masterships were embodied in the person of the Governor of Bombay, to the great advantage and advancement of the Craft in general.

Brother J. W. Smith, Past Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, died on the 21st July 1900 and the lodge duly recorded in the books votes of condolence with the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and the deceased's family and also went into mourning with the sister-lodges for a period of three months under directions from the Grand Master Depute then in charge of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

Rupees Two Hundred were voted this year to the Scottish Benevolent Association and a foreigner named Jacob David, M. M. of Lodge Viconde De Ris Branco-Brazil Constitution, was helped with a sum of money towards providing for his passage to the Transvaal, his native place, which he had left during the war

Brother Bownugree was this year for the second time returned to Parliament by his North Bethnal Green constituency, and the lodge passed a resolution expressing satisfaction at the re-election and voting a letter of

congratulation to the distinguished Brother and requesting him to convey to his electors the best thanks of the lodge for the honour. The funds at the close of the year stood at the high figure of Rs. 14,719-4-6, of which the charity funds amounted to Rs. 11,846-8-10. A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother J. F. Petit.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

1901.—Brother F. J. Patel was installed in the Eastern Chair on 15th December 1900 and remained in office till 7th December 1901. This year passed off more or less quietly. There were two initiations, two passings, and one raising and some lectures were delivered by the Right Worshipful Master and Brother A. F. Unwalla. Three new members were admitted, *viz.*, Messrs. Nowroji Hormusji and Muncherji Dorabji Dinsha Adenwalla, who were initiated; and Brother Nooroodin Ibbrahim Nooroodin, who was affiliated. But this addition to the rolls was reduced by two resignations, *viz.*, of Brothers Fazulbhai Visram and Manekji Jehangir Gustadji.

The whole Masonic Fraternity in Europe and India was thrown this year into grief by the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Empress of India, which happened in February 1901. Her Majesty was for more than half a century patron of the Craft and Masons deplored her loss equally with the rest of the world at large. The lodge was in particular not lacking in the manifestation of its sorrow at the demise of the Sovereign. At the meeting held on 9th February 1901 it passed unanimously a resolution recording it and then adjourned without transacting any business, in honour of that august lady now of happy and pious memory. Brother K. R. Cama in supporting the resolution proposed from the chair pointed out the keen interest always displayed in matters masonic by several members of the royal family, including her beloved son King Edward VII (most justly styled Edward the Peace-maker) and his Brother,

our Honorary Member, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

In common with the Indian public the lodge grieved within 4 months more at the sad death of Sir Dinsha Maneckji Petit. Bart, (the venerable grandfather of our good Brother, who has since assumed his name and title). The deceased was a great philanthropist and though not one belonging to the Fraternity, was in realty, in fact, and at heart, a true and genuine Mason who perhaps more than ever practised the excellent virtues inculcated by Masonry than any man of his time, and, above all, benevolence and charity. His handosme donations to the Craft in general and Lodge Rising Star in particular were too well known and his name has for ever remained written in the books of the lodge and the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and will always be revered and cherished. At the meeting held on 1st June 1901 the lodge passed the following resolution:—

“The brethren of this lodge unanimously desire to place on record their feelings of the deepest regret and profound grief at the demise of so noble a philanthropist and public benefactor as Sir Dinsha M. Petit, Baronet.”

It also passed the usual votes of condolence with the members of his breaved family.

Brother Captain C. D. Wise, the indefatigable Grand Secretary of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, also died about July of this year and the lodge passed votes of condolence with his widow and children and also with the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India on the loss to it of an energetic and zealous officer. This Brother was exact and precise in the performance of his masonic duties and was at the same time exacting in the performance of them by others, and at all times rendered help to those who appealed to him for the same by reason of his experience

and peculiar knowledge. His loss was one the Fraternity could ill afford.

A Memorial Purse Fund was started by the Grand Lodge for the benefit of the widow of the deceased and the lodge subscribed its mite thereto.

It was brought to the notice of the brethren this year by Brother D. R. Chichgar that a Council existed under the style of "The Framji Petit Council" the object of which was to instruct the brethren with still higher knowledge of the Craft than what was imparted in the lodge, and exhorted the brethren to keep the memory of Brother F. D. Petit ever green by joining the Council which, he said, was doing good work. A sum of Rs. 270 was subscribed by the brethren for defraying the cost of providing a new frame and varnishing and retouching the picture of Brother Manekji Cursetji hung up in the Freemasons' Hall, as it was in a very old state and needed to be repaired and reframed so as to be in keeping with the other pictures in the room, and the amount was handed over for the purpose to the Joint Hall Committee who expended Rs. 225 for the purpose and devoted the balance to the cost of a silver engraved plate to be affixed to the framework.

The short method of raising and lowering the lodge was in pursuance of a resolution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland discontinued from this year.

Brother Sir M. M. Bhownugree was this year appointed Honorary Grand Master Depute of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and this was a compliment as much to that Brother as to his mother-lodge.

The charity funds of the lodge now amounted to Rs. 11,941-9-7, the latest contribution having been of Rs. 150 by Brother A. F. Unwalla, made in the name of his late father and to be added to the fund then standing in the name of his mother.

Rupees One Hundred were voted by the lodge to the Scottish Benevolent Association in India and a Past

Master's jewel was voted to the retiring Master, Brother F. J. Patel.

1902.—Brother Pheerozeshaw N. Pleader was installed as Worshipful Master on 7th December 1901, having been elected previously to fill that exalted post by the unanimous votes of the brethren; and as the records bear testimony he worked most zealously and heartily and succeeded in maintaining the prestige of the lodge and its high state of efficiency of working. Besides his own Brother, Brother Ardesir N. Pleader, he admitted into the mysteries of Freemasonry Mr. Gullamhussein Currimbhoy Ibbrahim, a third son of our beloved Brother Sir Currimbhai Ibbrahim, Bart. Brother Spittam K. R. Cama, also a third son of our equally beloved and venerable Brother K. R. Cama, was affiliated to the lodge and Brother Hormusji Dadabhai rejoined the lodge.

This accession was however more than counterbalanced by four resignations and three deaths, being of one subscribing member and two honorary members.

The resigning members were Brothers Bomanji Dinshaw Petit, the Hon'ble Justice Sir N. G. Chandavarkar, Dr. M. R. Sethna, and Edulji Cowasji Jussawalla, and the subscribing member who left this world and, with it, the brethren ever to mourn his loss, was Brother Dr. Ismail Jan Mahomed, who was affiliated from Lodge Islam eleven years before.

He was of good report and had during his membership laid a strong hold on the good-will and regards of the brethren, who recognised in him a genuine man and a true Mason who loved and served his countrymen as he did his Brother-Masons. All who knew him appreciated his sterling worth and always admired him. He died on 28th January 1902 and in his memory a special Lodge of Sorrow was held on 21st February following at which the customary service was performed and a suitable oration paying a due meed of praise and a tribute to his

memory was delivered by Brother P. C. Sethna. Brother Dr. Ismail was at his death Past Grand Warden of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and the Grand Lodge and several daughter-lodges passed votes of condolence with Lodge Rising Star.

The Honorary Members who died were Brothers Dossabhai Framji Karaka, C. S. I., and Rahimtulla Mahomed Sayani. Resolutions expressing grief at the deaths and condoling with the families of the deceased Brothers were duly passed.

At the end of the year the funds stood at Rs.13,477-11-11 of which the charity funds amounted to Rs. 11,587-2-9.

Brother P. N. Pleader was voted a Past Master's jewel at the installation meeting held on 13th December 1902 and was succeeded by Brother C. H. Captain, previously duly elected to the chair unanimously by the brethren.

1903.—Brother Captain entered on his office in this the Diamond Jubilee year of the lodge and fully justified the choice the brethren had made. He evinced the same unflagging interest and zeal as had been shown by his worthy predecessors in advancing the happiness and welfare of the lodge, and promoting the best principles of the Craft. Two Brothers resigned, *viz.*, Brothers Hormusji Dadabhai and P. D. Sett. But four new members joined, of whom two were affiliates and two initiates, *viz.*, Brothers Nanabhai Hormusji Moss (Solicitor) and Byramji H. J. Rustomji were affiliated and Dhanjibhai Pestanji Sethna and Narotam Morarji Goculdas were initiated. There was only one initiation, one passing, and one raising and the time not employed in working the degrees was usefully employed in lectures, one of which entitled "The Origin of the Third Degree" was given by Brother A. F. Unwalla and was so highly appreciated that it was resolved that it should be entered in the minute book.

The question of the location of the lodge library troubled some brethren this year and was accordingly discussed at a lodge meeting and then referred to the Standing Committee for final disposal, and that body resolved that the masonic books belonging to the lodge should be handed over to the Hall Committee with a request that a masonic library be established in the Freemasons' Hall, the lodge wishing that the other lodges would assist the scheme in the most suitable manner, and this resolution was adopted by the lodge. It appears that before this the Hall Committee were contemplating the equipment of the Masonic Hall with a reading room and library but were not able to do anything for want of funds at their disposal. After this they appointed a Sub Committee consisting of Brothers R. S. Brown, D. R. Chichgar, S. B. Salts, and Sorab K. Nariman to report as to the ways and means for carrying out the object, and they drew up a report in the following year.

It was resolved again this year to revive the Founder's Medal the original die of which had been lost. Attempts had also been previously made to revive the medal and one of the original medals which belonged to the late Brother Nowroji Nanabhoy Framji was obtained as a loan from his widow through her son Mr. Limji Nowroji Banaji and sent to England to Messrs. George Kenning with the object of getting another die struck therefrom. The estimates were obtained and the medal lent was in due course returned to the custody from which it came but the die was not struck and no further medals were got out. The subject again vexed some of the members and again therefore a resolution was passed for reviving the medal.

The charity funds received this year the following two donations for which the donors were duly thanked:—

(1) Rs. 500 from Surgeon-Major Cowasji Sanjana in return for aid rendered by the lodge in former years to

a member of his family and (2) Rs. 500 from Brother Captain on the day of his retirement from the Eastern Chair as an endowment in the name of his father.

At the end of the year after taking into account Rs. 1,040 disbursed in charity, the charity funds amounted to Rs. 12,171-8-11 and the general funds to Rs. 1,813-9-1 and the number of members was 64 against 63 at the commencement of the year.

Rs. 100 were as usual devoted to the Scottish Benevolent Association of India.

Brother Captain was on relinquishing office voted a Past Master's jewel which he so well merited. The lodge now completed its sixth decade.

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## CHAPTER XXXVI.

1904.—Brother Maneck R. Sethna was the Worshipful Master in 1903-4. He set to work right earnestly and took up questions which had been discussed but left undisposed of in previous years. The first thing he did on assuming office was to make a laudable effort to revive the Jamshedi Naoroze Masonic Festival, which had been in abeyance for over four years, and resolutions were passed on the recommendation of the Standing Committee that the lodge should take the initiative in holding the festival on the occasion of the Vernal Equinox and that the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries of the different native lodges should be requested to form themselves into a committee for the purpose of inaugurating the festival, and that all expenses of the festival should be defrayed out of subscriptions. He was helped in his efforts by Brothers K.R. Cama and Jivanji Jamsetji Mody but the response to the movement was not hearty and the matter was dropped.

The old records of the lodge next attracted the attention of the Right Worshipful Master and the question of housing and locating them and keeping them in order was discussed and the office of Brother P. C. Sethna it was resolved should be a safe repository for them. Brother M. R. Sethna found the records, it is stated, in a heap lying scattered and in disorder and he sorted and arranged them in regular order. It must have been a work of great labour and he deserved the best thanks of the lodge for having done it.

Next an old Founder's Medal was purchased by the lodge from a Brother M. C. Hiranamek for Rs. 30 and was sent

to Messrs. George Kenning & Sons of 196, 197, and 198 Aldergate St., London, E. C., with a request to them to furnish an estimate for casting a new die and of the price of a new medal. The estimate arrived and was in due course accepted at £10-10 and new medals were ordered out and came in the following year. Thus was the Fundator's Medal revived after several years.

There were three initiations, three passings, and three raisings during the year and four new members joined, *viz.*, Kavasji Dadabhai Hormusji Dubash Rustomji H. J. Rustomji, and Dinsha Dorabji Romer (Solicitor) who were initiated, and Brother Dadabhai S. Munsif, who was affiliated. Brother Haji Mahomed Mehdi Malek-o-Tujar, the ex-governor of Bushire, rejoined the lodge but for a short time only, for within five months he resigned; Brother Pestanji Cowasji Sethna also resigned.

Brother Kabraji died on 25th April and a special Lodge of Sorrow was held on the 7th May following, at which the customary service was performed and resolutions were passed. Brother K. R. Cama delivered a very able and impressive oration on the occasion. Brother Kabraji was above all an enthusiastic Master during the twelve months he had governed the lodge, for the records show that every time the brethren met they were specially exhorted to practise and not to preach only the excellent precepts inculcated by Freemasonry, and in the working of degrees he was strongly of opinion that the same, and especially the third degree, should be accompanied by music in order to render them so much the more attractive and interesting. He was himself the Honorary Organist of the lodge (a post for which he was well fitted by reason of his own musical talents) for some years since the office was established, and helped materially at the Jamshedi Naoroze Masonic festivals and the musical entertainments held in connection with them, and in no small degree himself and by his daughters, who also aided

him, contributed to the success of the festivals. His was a loss the lodge could ill afford. He was Grand Junior Warden at the time of his death, and Brother Rustom K. R. Cama was appointed by the Grand Lodge to fill his place during the rest of the year, and at the request of the Grand Lodge was obligated as such in Lodge Rising Star.

Mr. R. H. J. Rustomji's election was the subject of a rather warm discussion. On the summons convening the meeting at which he was to be balloted for, his residence was not specified, but at this date, the lodge Bye-laws did not require any such specification. When the ballot was about to be taken, Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama asked that it should be adjourned till the summons was amended by the residence of the candidate being specified, which he said ought to have been done, and in support of his views he quoted passages from Chamber's Patons Freemasonry and its jurisprudence (p. 78). As the candidate was generally known to come from Kurrachee Brother Cama also contended that it was not right for the lodge to initiate him when there were four lodges in Kurrachee, especially as he was, according to his information, on a short visit to Bombay and was not a resident of the place, and supported his arguments by quotations from the same author at pp. 65-6 which laid down that a candidate should apply to a lodge near to his place of residence so that all proper inquiries could be made, but, at the same time, he stated that no express law on the subject was to be found either in the ancient landmarks or in the old constitutions and that its positive sanction as a law in any jurisdiction must be found in the local enactments of the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction. He also quoted from p. 13 of the same book a passage stating that no lodge could interfere with the business of another lodge, and this he said was undoubtedly an ancient landmark founded on the great principles of courtesy and fraternal

kindness, the very foundations of the institution. He had, he said, no personal objection to the candidate but he wanted to make his own position clear and would retire from the meeting if the ballot was still proceeded with.

Brother Phiroze C. Sethna, who supported the application for initiation, pointed out that in the absence of any Bye-law of the lodge or of the Grand Lodge requiring a candidate's residence to be specified on the summons, the action of the lodge was quite justified, and urged that the candidate was as much a resident of Bombay as of Kur-rachee, as he had place of business and abode in both places and lived in Bombay some part of the year and should be balloted for. Brother Cama was not convinced by the argument and still contended that any Bye-laws which were not in accordance with the articles laid down at large in Freemasonry were inoperative. The rest of the brethren were opposed to his views and he thereupon retired from the meeting and the ballot was then taken.

The particular Bye-law which related to the proposal of a candidate as also the usual declaration made by him were after this duly altered by his residence being also required to be stated along with his age and occupation.

Brother the Honourable Mr. P. M. Mehta, C.I.E., received the honour of Knighthood from His Majesty the King-Emperor this year and the lodge passed by acclamation a special congratulatory resolution which was duly conveyed to and suitably acknowledged by him. A surprise visit was paid to the lodge by the Ceremonial Sub-committee of the Grand Lodge at a regular meeting, and the Grand Secretary wrote to the Right Worshipful Master thereafter as follows;—

“ I am directed by the Ceremonial Sub-committee, of which there were two members present at the meeting of your lodge on the 6th instant, to congratulate you and your office-bearers on the excellence of your degree work as witnessed on that occasion. The Committee were glad

to see the traditions and prestige of Lodge Rising Star of Western India "so ably maintained, and wish it every success."

The greatest event of the year however was the 50 years' masonic jubilee of Brother K. R. Cama. It was an event which not only concerned the lodge but was an unique event in the history of Freemasonry in India. Our veteran mason completed fifty years of a subscribing membership and career fraught with most honourable and useful masonic work on 24th August 1904, and the lodge, before the happy day arrived, determined to celebrate it in a fitting manner. Brother Cama was present at the meetings of the Standing Committee and took part in the deliberations of that body on the subject, and when a grand banquet in his honour was proposed he expressed himself against the idea and the brethren had to drop it. He, disdaining all show and desiring that something should be done which would be of permanent benefit to the Craft, suggested out of his genuine and deep-seated love for it that the event should be celebrated by issuing a jubilee memorial volume on masonic subjects, and the suggestion was adopted by the lodge, and the Secretary, Brother Jivanji J. Mody, was requested to edit the volume, which he willingly undertook to do. The lodge also held an emergent meeting on 24th August, which was open to all Masons, and passed the following resolution :—

"The Lodge Rising Star of Western India records its sense of gratification at the fact that one of its members, Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama, has this day completed the fiftieth year of his masonic life. This lodge congratulates itself and congratulates the Right Worshipful Brother on this auspicious occasion.

The fact of a paying member completing his fifty years of masonic life is an unique event in the masonic history of India. It is very gratifying to note that Right Worshipful Brother Cama has been an exemplary Mason,

regular in his attendance, attentive to his duties, useful to the Craft in general and to this lodge in particular, loyal in observing the virtues preached by the Craft, and zealous to uphold the prestige of masonry as an useful institution. The lodge is therefore proud to count a brother like Right Worshipful Brother Cama among one of its dutiful, valued and useful sons. It prays that the Grand Architect of the Universe may spare him long and endue him with health of body and vigour of mind to serve more faithfully than ever the Craft in general and this his mother-lodge in particular and to be useful to his fellow-brethren to the honour and glory of the Most High."

In placing the resolution for acceptance the Right Worshipful Master Brother M. R. Sethna gave a short and concise account of Brother Cama's masonic career and paid a fitting tribute to his disinterested and zealous labours in the cause of Freemasonry and referred to him, and rightly so, as the "Pillar of Strength" of Lodge Rising Star, to whom all brethren looked for support in their difficulties. It appears from the account that after this worthy Brother became Master of the lodge he was also steadily attracting attention in the Provincial Grand Lodge, for in 1863 he was Provincial Grand Steward, in 1864 Grand Secretary, in 1866 Grand Junior Warden, in 1867 Grand Senior Warden, in 1868 Substitute Provincial Grand Master, in 1876 Honorary Depute Grand Master and then Grand Master Depute of All Scottish Freemasonry in India. He thus attained the highest masonic honour ever bestowed upon an Indian in the Craft but it was not in attaining high and responsible posts and performing the routine duties attached to them that Brother Cama took delight, but it was in acquitting himself creditably and usefully to the Craft that he always centred his energies. While he was Grand Secretary he suggested the establishment of the Grand

Committee with a view to increase the strength and efficiency of the Grand Lodge and his suggestion was adopted and he became himself a member of the Grand Committee and continued as such till the day of his death.

In 1865 while he was still Grand Secretary the Grand Lodge passed a code of Bye-laws upon its being pointed out by Brother Cama that it had none. Great trouble was taken by him in compiling the Bye-laws and since then he has been a member and the president of the Bye-laws Committee. At a Grand Lodge meeting held on 25th June 1869 it was the proud privilege of Brother Cama as the first Indian and a Parsi to preside over the brethren in the lodge in his capacity of Substitute Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and when he vacated that post the Grand Lodge passed a resolution recording the valuable services he had till then rendered to Scotch Freemasonry in India which was conveyed to him engrossed on vellum.

While Grand Master Depute, Brother Cama was in charge as Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India for a few months while the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Sir Henry Morland was away from India.

It also appears that Brother Cama was, prior to 1879, made by the Grand Master an honorary member of the Grand Lodge with all the benefits of a full member with the object that the constitution should not be deprived of the benefit of his great experience and knowledge, as he gave the most carefull attention to the many subjects, often intricate and difficult, that came up before the body.

He and Brother John Y. Lang were also appointed a Sub-Committee in 1879 to devise a better mode of keeping the Grand Lodge accounts so as to secure a better check than was possible under the then existing system and they formulated a scheme which met with approval.

Brother Cama had also had the unusual honour of being the first Indian Grand Superintendent of Scottish Royal Arch Masonry in India, being re-elected to that office three times in succession at the end of every five years.

It was his sterling unbroken services, for help rendered—not only to Lodge Rising Star, but to the Craft in general—that the lodge desired to commemorate the event by celebrating his masonic jubilee. The 24th of August 1854, when Brother Cama's knock at the door of the lodge was happily responded to, was indeed one of the luckiest days for the lodge. for as the address of the Right Worshipful Master at the emergent meeting of 24th August 1904 showed, it brought within it and the brotherhood in general, one, who, it might be truly said, above all, prized honour and virtue as his best possessions and showed how noble and excellent an institution Freemasonry is. Congratulatory messages and greetings were received before and at this emergent meeting from several individual Masons, Lodges, and Chapters which all breathed of the most fraternal feelings of love, esteem, and regard for our beloved Brother, and complimented the lodge on possessing him as its most valuable asset.

Brother Cama, submitting to the demand of the occasion, denied himself the right to attend the emergent meeting, and the resolution was conveyed to him in writing and he duly acknowledged same by a letter in which he, *inter alia*, wrote as follows:—

“Your lodge's prayer, that I may be enabled by Grace to be useful more than ever to the lodge during the very short period I may be permitted to live, has my heartiest echo, for it has always been my delight and profit to be regular in my attendance so that I may be enabled on each occasion to give to my heart the noble and

benign lessons which its work inculcates on all who give a willing and devoted attention to the masonic precepts with which every degree is replete. May the lodge continue to spread the invaluable tenet of the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man, that every Mason may be enabled to hope to participate in the work of the Grand Lodge above when he has passed through sublunary probation and gained the passport to the portals of that Sublime Lodge."

An address was to be presented at the same time that the resolution was passed, but the presentation was, at the desire of Brother Cama, postponed till the completion of the jubilee volume.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay and Pro. District Grand Master E. C., was installed as the Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in India at the annual convocation of the Grand Lodge held on 1st December 1904, under a Commission issued by the Honourable Charles Maule Ramsay, Grand Master Mason of Scotland, on 4th August 1904. On that occasion, His Excellency unveiled the marble bust of Bro. D. R. Chichgar, which was a part of the testimonial subscribed for by the members of the Fraternity on the occasion of the completion of the Masonic Hall. The bust was located on the first landing of the main staircase, which prominent place it still occupies. The effigy is a remarkably good likeness of our worthy Brother and the following is the inscription on the pedestal on which it rests :—

"The Honourable Right Worshipful Brother Darasha Ratanji Chichgar (Khan Bahadur, J. P.) Past Grand Master Depute, S. C., Honorary Senior G. W., E. C., Honorary Secretary, Freemasons' Joint Hall Committee."

“A tribute by the Freemasons of Bombay and its territories for help in the erection of this Hall and other valuable services to the Craft for quarter of a century.”

The year closed with 66 members on the roll and a fund of Rs. 15,087-1-3, of which Rs. 2,145-5-8 were to the credit of the general account and Rs. 12,941-11-7 to the credit of the charity account after deducting a large sum disbursed in charity during the year. A Past Master's jewel was voted to Brother Maneck R. Sethna and the usual donation of Rs. 100 was made to the Scottish Benevolent Fund.

1905.—Brother A. F. Unwalla occupied the chair in 1904-5 and his regime was as successful as that of his predecessors. To all questions that came up for discussion before either the lodge or the Standing Committee, he applied his legal acumen and common sense with the result that the solutions were on all occasions acceptable to the brethren and he always exercised great discretion and moderation. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Lord Lamington, was made an Honorary Member of the lodge and Right Worshipful Brother Sir Lawrence H. Jenkins, who was already an Honorary Member, and was at this time Honorary Member of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, was presented with the Burne's Medal in appreciation of his services to the Craft.

Three new members were admitted, *viz.*, Brothers Dhunjibhai H. J. Rustomji (an affiliate) and Messrs. Phirozsha Bomanji Petit and Ahmed Currimbhai Ibbrahim (initiates). Brothers Nowrosji Pestanji Vakil and Hormusji M. Chichgar resigned and Brother Ratansha Dadabhai died. The last named Brother, during the years he was a member of the lodge, filled some of the side offices and participated in all movements that promoted or tended to promote the welfare of the lodge and the

happiness of the brethren. He was a familiar figure not easily to be forgotten. By his courteous deportment, genial and affable manners and accommodating nature he had endeared himself both to the young and the old, in the lodge room as in the outer world, and his untimely death when he was in the very prime of life, was a distinct loss to the lodge which duly recorded in the minutes its deep sense of grief and sympathy with his sorrowing family and with Brothers Shapurji Sorabji and Nowrosji Hormusji, his near relations and members of the lodge.

There were three initiations, one passing, and one raising during the year, and some useful lectures about "The General Assumption about Freemasonry" and "The History of Freemasonry" were delivered by Brother J. J. Mody.

The affiliation fee was this year raised from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150.

A revised edition of the book of constitutions and the laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was issued this year, and in order to bring the lodge Bye-laws into accordance with same a Sub-Committee consisting of the Right Worshipful Master and Brothers K. R. Cama, D. R. Chichgar, Rustom K. R. Cama, Pestanji M. Kanga, and Sorab Cowasji Hormusji (Secretary) was appointed to revise them. Brother M. C. Murzban was appointed by Government the High Sheriff of Bombay for the ensuing year, and a special vote of congratulation was passed complimenting this worthy Brother, the next oldest subscribing member of the lodge after Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama, on the honour conferred upon him.

Brother Currimbhai Ibbrahim received the very high honour of Knighthood from our beloved Sovereign His Majesty the King-Emperor, which was personally conferred upon him by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was then in Bombay in the course of his

Indian tour. As is well known the distinction came to Sir Currimbhai in recognition of the munificent gift made by him of the princely sum of Rupees Three Lacs, in honour of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and his Royal Consort to India, as a contribution towards the Prince of Wales Museum, inaugurated by Bombay to commemorate the same visit. This was only a further instance of Sir Currimbhai's benevolent nature and philanthropy and the lodge felt justly proud in having such a brother as one of its members. An emergent meeting was held at which a congratulatory resolution was passed, and this worthy Brother's virtues and charities to masonic and non-masonic bodies were appropriately acknowledged and praised. In honour of the occasion Brother Fazulbhai Meheralli Chinai, a former member of the lodge, made a donation of Rupees Fifty to the Charity Funds of the lodge and later on Sir Currimbhai himself made a donation of Rupees Five Hundred to the Charity Funds.

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## CHAPTER XXXVII.

1906.—The Most Worshipful the Grand Master Lord Lamington paid his first official visit to the lodge at its installation meeting held on 15th December, when Brother D. F. Wadia was installed in King Solomon's Chair. It was at this meeting that His Excellency most graciously presented to Right Worshipful Brother Sir Lawrence H. Jenkins the Burne's Medal on behalf of the lodge and also presented the Past Master's jewel to Brothers R. M. Chichgar, M. D. Doctor, P. M. Kanga, P. C. Sethna, F. J. Patel, P. N. Pleader, and C. H. Captain, which though duly voted to each of them on his retirement from the chair had not yet been presented. The General Funds of the lodge now amounted to Rs. 2,104-3-6 and the Charity Funds to Rs. 15,328-14-1, after taking into account Rs. 1,000 and upwards expended in charity during the year, the usual donations to the Scottish Benevolent Funds and Grand Lodge of Scotland Charity Funds. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master was pleased to express his very great satisfaction at the prosperous condition of the finances and the harmony prevailing amongst the brethren, and in referring to his honorary membership, said he personally highly valued the privilege of being an honorary member of the lodge, which he said was the premier native lodge in India, and hoped that he would be able to pay more visits to the lodge.

The year 1905-6 began with 66 members on the roll. Brothers Byramji H. J. Rustomji and Dhunjibhai H. J. Rustomji resigned; Brother Bejanji N. Kapadia died; and

Brother D. A. Talyarkhan's name was removed, for default in payment of lodge dues. Resolutions were duly passed recording the grief of the lodge at the death of Brother Kapadia and sympathising with his family.

Brother H. M. Chichgar, who had resigned during the previous year, paid his debt of mortality on 30th December 1905 and in his memory a special Lodge of Sorrow was held as during his 31 years' membership he had rendered many useful services to the lodge, notably in the matter of the Nowrosji Nanabhai Trust Funds. Brother P. C. Sethna delivered an oration after the funeral service was performed in which he depicted the deceased Brother's character and dwelt at length on his masonic career and the obligations under which he had laid the Lodge, and resolutions were passed regretting the death and condoling with the family of the deceased and also with the Brothers Chichgar, members of the lodge, and Brother Nanu Narayen Kothare, the deceased's partner in his profession.

The numerical strength of the lodge however did not in the end decrease, for five new members were admitted, *viz.*, Messrs. Rustomji Peroshaw Bharucha, Rustomji Maneckji Dossabhai Wadia (the Right Worshipful Master's brother), Abdul Hussein Abdul Currim and Jehangir Cooverji Coyaji, who were all initiated, and Brother Abdul Kadir A. Ebrahim, who was affiliated. The degree work consisted of four initiations, six passings and five raisings, and an interesting lecture on "An Inquiry into the Traditional or Legendary History of Freemasonry" was delivered by Brother J. J. Mody.

The sub-committee, appointed in the previous year to revise the by-laws, began work this year. Brother P. C. Sethna was added thereto by the Right Worshipful Master. It held about 12 sittings at which the existing by-laws were discussed and overhauled, and new by-laws were prepared which after passing through the

Standing Committee were adopted and passed by the lodge, amended in some respects, at an emergent meeting held on 17th November 1906.

Before the by-laws were passed, two new offices were created this year, *viz.*, those of Chaplain and Assistant Director of Ceremonies and appointments had also been made to these offices, but when the new by-laws were passed the Chaplain's office only was retained and that of the Assistant Director of Ceremonies was abolished.

By the new by-laws the fees were raised from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 for the three degrees, at which figure they at present stand.

An Affiliated Member was for the first time obligated this year and a form of the obligation was annexed to the by-laws.

Brother C. H. Captain, in the course of his travels this year paid a visit to Lodge Benjamin B. French No. 15, Washington, U. S. A., and that lodge was pleased to notify the visit by a letter which also contained its cordial invitation to the members of the Lodge Rising Star happening to be in that great Continent to visit it. The letter was duly replied to by the Right Worshipful Master who therein extended the invitation of this lodge to the members of Lodge Benjamin B. French, when happening to travel in India. Brother Captain after his return spoke of his reception by that lodge as having been very warm and cordial.

The foundation stone of the Sir William Moore Operation Theatre at the Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai Hospital was laid with masonic rites on 25th September 1906, by Most Worshipful Brother His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Lamington, Governor of Bombay and Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and the lodge was represented in this function.

Brother D. F. Wadia laid down office at the installation meeting held on 1st December 1906, and the number of

members on the roll was then 67 and the funds were Rs. 16,721-5-4, of which Rs. 13,921-0-0 stood to the credit of the charity account, to which on his retirement he made a donation of Rs. 500-0-0 (in Government paper) to be credited in an account in the name of his father the late Mr. Framji Dossabhai Merwanji Wadia, the income thereof only to be devoted for purposes of charity. During the year Rs. 1,225-0-0 were disbursed in charity. Right Worshipful Brother Colonel Robert Hall Forman represented the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India at this installation meeting in his capacity of Substitute Grand Master with the Grand Lodge officers and was pleased to express his great gratification at the prosperous condition of the lodge and the peace and goodwill which prevailed therein, and in alluding to the position it held in the Craft said that in his opinion "the Risen Star was now a more appropriate name than Rising Star, for the star that was rising in 1843 had firmly maintained its position in the masonic firmament during its long existence of over 60 years and was occupying a premier position amongst native lodges in Western India." The lodge could not be too thankful to this worthy Mason for his kind utterances on this occasion.

The question of equipping the Masonic Hall with electric light and fans was now mooted and was under consideration of the Hall Committee. The lodge voted at this meeting as its first contribution towards the cost of the fittings the sum of Rs. 100. The usual donations to the Grand Lodge of Scotland Annuity Fund and the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association in India were also made at this meeting, and a past master's jewel was voted to the retiring Master.

1907.—Brother D. C. Sethna succeeded Brother D. F. Wadia in the Master's chair.

The Cama Masonic Jubilee Volume, edited by Brother J. J. Mody, was now ready. A special presentation volume neatly got up and handsomely bound in morocco was prepared and the presentation was made by the lodge to Brother K. R. Cama at the hands of Most Worshipful Brother His Excellency Lord Lamington, Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, at a meeting held on 12th March 1907, which he had very graciously attended for the purpose, responding to the request of the lodge in that behalf as the brethren were anxious to see honour paid to the recipient thereof through the highest masonic functionary in the land. Along with the Memorial Volume, an address prepared by a small Sub-committee consisting of the Right Worshipful Master, the Immediate Past Master, and Brother J. J. Mody was also presented to Brother Cama signed by the Master, office-bearers and members of the lodge and fixed in a beautiful and artistic frame. (See Appendix S.)

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master while making the presentation recounted the various services rendered to the Craft by Brother K. R. Cama and held him up as a model Freemason and expressed his great pleasure at having had the opportunity of making the presentation to a worthy Brother.

The Jubilee Volume consists of 18 papers on different masonic subjects, two of which are from the pen of the Editor himself and the rest by different members of the Fraternity. It also contains appreciation of Brother Cama's past services by several brethren (one of them being our Honorary Member, Right Worshipful Brother W. H. Barrow,) and the address that was delivered by Right Worshipful Brother Manek R. Sethna at the meeting held on 24th August 1904, to celebrate the Masonic Jubilee. Brother Barrow's paper, it may be noted, contains reference to the initiation of the first Hindu Bhagwandas Beneram in the lodge.

At the very end of the volume is also published a letter addressed to Brother Cama by Right Worshipful Brother Robert K. Inches, the Master of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No. 1, conveying the congratulations of that lodge on the attainment of his jubilee and accompanied by a list of the Masters of the lodge from 1599 to 21st February 1905 and a copy of its by-laws. The Lodge of Edinburgh is the oldest masonic lodge in existence, being descended according to tradition from the craftsmen brought from Stratsford by David, first King of Scotland, in 1128, for the purpose of building Holyrood Abbey, and it possesses, it is said, the oldest minute extant, dated "July, 1599." King Edward in 1870 when Prince of Wales honoured that lodge by becoming an Affiliated Member.

This year the lodge lost a promising member in Brother A. N. Pleader. During the six years that he was a member he had, following in the wake of his worthy brother, shown a lively interest in several questions that had come up before the lodge, and had life been spared to him he would have been of use to the lodge. He was very genial and pleasant in his intercourse and had made himself quite popular. But the fate, that must sooner or later overtake all, overtook him in the very blossom of his life at the early age of 43 years on 15th March 1907. The lodge duly recorded its sense of grief at the sad and untimely death.

Mr. Ratanji Hormusji Cooper was the only new member admitted this year. The degree work consisted of one initiation, one passing, and two raisings, but the spare time was not only usefully but was very profitably spent in lectures given by Brother Sorab C. Hormusji on "The Tracing Board" and by Brother J. J. Mody on "King Solomon's Temple and the Ancient Persians," and "Charity." These lectures were highly interesting, and the one on charity by Brother Mody was so highly appreciated by the brethren

that it was resolved that it should be printed and circulated among the members and that a special day should be appointed on which there would be no lodge meeting, when Freemasons from all lodges should be invited and the lecture should be repeated by Brother Mody. Brother K. R. Cama characterised the lecture as a very unique one, and paid a high tribute to the learning shown by the lecturer. Brother Mody always took delight in entertaining the brethren whenever he could get the opportunity of doing so, with instructive discussions on masonic subjects and his efforts showed great industry and deep search at the fountain sources. He was an useful member but the lodge was no longer to profit from him. He resigned shortly after he delivered his last lecture, and the lodge accepted the resignation with great regret. Brother Jehangir B. Petit also resigned and Brother Jamsetji N. Unwalla was, in pursuance of a resolution of the Grand Lodge in that behalf, suspended "for belonging and refusing to sever his connection with a spurious body working under the jurisdiction of a body styling itself Supreme Council Universal Mixte de Droit Humaine, of Paris, under the terms of the conference between the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland."

1908.—Brother Dr. D. C. Sethna vacated office on 14th December 1907, when Brother Dr. K. B. Shroff was installed as Master. On this occasion again the lodge was officially visited by Right Worshipful Brother Colonel Forman, but this time as Substitute Grand Master in charge as Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, as the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Lord Lamington had before that to leave suddenly for England, resigning his post of Governor of the Presidency owing to the serious illness of Lady Lamington. A fund had been started for defraying the cost of an oil-painting of Lord Lamington to be hung up in the Masonic Hall and at this meeting the lodge voted its share thereto. The customary

donations to the Scottish Benevolent Association and the Grand Lodge of Scotland Annuity Fund were also made and Brother Sethna was voted a Past Master's jewel.

The in-coming Master on the very threshold of his government made a donation of Rs. 500 (in Government paper) to the Charity Funds of the lodge to be credited in an account in the name of his deceased niece Mrs. Bhikhaji Bomanji Raghi, the interest only to be devoted to charity. The General Funds after all expenses made amounted to Rs.2,501-11-1 and the Charity Funds, exclusive of the last donation but after deducting Rs.1,275 disbursed in charity during the year, totalled Rs.14,407-1-10. The number of members was 64. There was an addition of two during the year, namely Dr. Bomanji Byramji Darabsett, Deputy Health Officer, Bombay Municipality, and Dr. Dossabhai Rustomji Bardi, F. R. C. S. (Edinburgh), but the lodge again had to suffer a loss by the death of Brother Dossabhai Dadabhai Allbless on 24th May 1908 and of Brother Surrosh K. R. Cama. Brother Allbless was the very type of a Parsi of the orthodox school, yet, held to the most modern ideas, was severely plain and unassuming and was possessed of a very kind and generous nature and was candid and scrupulous, honest in his intentions and acts, and every inch a true Mason. He practised, unobserved and to a large extent, the principles of charity and benevolence. The lodge duly passed resolutions expressing its grief at the death and condoling with the deceased's family.

The degree work was two initiations, one passing, and one raising, and lectures on the tracing boards were delivered by Brothers P. C. Sethna and S. C. Hormusji and a lecture on "Gleams and Sidelights of Freemasonry" by Brother D. R. Chichgar which were much appreciated.

Brother J. J. Mody sent in August of this year 50 copies of the Cama Masonic Jubilee Volume and two sums of Rs.42-5-0 and Rs. 16-8-0, aggregating Rs.58-13-0.

The lodge made a further contribution this year of Rs.400 to the Electric Fans and Lights Fund and subscribed Rs. 50 to the Hyderabad Relief Fund started in Bombay for affording relief to the people in Hyderabad (Deccan) who had suffered by the floods there.

A complete register of the members of the lodge commencing from 15th December 1843 (the date of its establishment) to the date of the installation meeting held on 15th December 1908 was compiled by Brother D. F. Wadia (the author of this History) and handed by him to the lodge at that meeting. Two donations of Rs.500 each were made to the lodge at the same meeting, one by Brother Phiroze C. Sethna and the other by Brother Dr. D. R. Wadia, who was installed as Master for the succeeding year.

Brother Sethna's endowment was associated with the name of his late father Brother Cursetji Rustomji Sethna, who from the early sixties was a member of the lodge for over a quarter of a century, and was made to perpetuate his memory and upon condition that the *corpus* should always remain intact and the interest only should be used for charitable purposes. Brother Wadia's donation was made to perpetuate the memory of his paternal grandfather the late Brother Ardeshir Cursetji Wadia (who was the first Indian member initiated in the Lodge in the year 1844 and was for several years the Treasurer of the lodge) and upon like condition.

The lodge was at this Anniversary Meeting paid his first official visit by the Most Worshipful Brother Colonel Forman, who was now the Grand Master, with his Grand Lodge Officers, and before this was honoured by him by his nominating Brother Rustom M. Chichgar, Honorary Sub-Grand Master. The year closed with 62 members on the roll and the financial condition was as prosperous as before. The General Fund was Rs. 2,306-15-7 and the Charity Account stood at Rs. 14,845-0-6 after taking into account Rs.1,400 and odd disbursed thereout during the year.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

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1909.—In the year 1909 there was an addition of five members, *viz.*, Mr. Behramji Cowasji Batliwala and Dr. Jehangir Munchershaw Meherhomji (who were initiated), Brother Rahimtulla Currimbhoy Ebrahim, (of Lodge Imperial Brotherhood) and Dr. Sorab Kaikhus-roo Engineer (late of Lodge Mary's Chapel of Edinburgh, Scotland) who were affiliated and Brother B. H. J. Rustomji who rejoined. With Brother Rahimtulla the lodge now has five sons of our worthy Brother Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim, Bart., as members. But this accession was entirely counter-balanced by the resignations of Brothers Sir Dinshaw Maneckji Petit, Bart., and Pestonji Cowasji (Solicitor) and the deaths of Brothers K. R. Cama, Fakirji Dinshaw, and Gulam Husein Allana. The death of Brother K. R. Cama was a great blow to the lodge and it will be years before it will recover from it. This venerable Brother died after an unique Masonic career of 55 years, during which period he was an Active and Subscribing Member of the lodge, and full of years and honours. In word, act, and deed he evinced a strong desire and unmistakable tendency to a general good understanding and exhorted the brethren in this lodge, as he did in the Craft generally, to consecrate themselves to the maintenance of peace, good-will, usefulness and efficiency, and to render undeviating obedience to the Chair, and spoke out fearlessly to anyone who disregarded that principle.

He imparted Masonic light to the brethren which, let us hope, will burn brightly to the glory of his name for ever

and enable them always to tread in the path of rectitude and propriety. In the previous portion of this history references have been made to the period of his Mastership and the lessons that he then and always thereafter inculcated and the example he set of strict discipline, regular attendance, and high Masonic ideals, as also to the high and responsible posts enjoyed by him in the Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India up to Depute Grand Mastership and to the honour (which has rarely, if it has ever, fallen to the lot of an Indian) of being in charge of Grand Lodge while Substitute Grand Master and to preside at its meeting. His advice and assistance in the Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India were always considered valuable and esteemed accordingly. He was also at his death Past Honorary Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Past Honorary Depute First Grand Principal of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and Past Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry in India. He was a persevering and unwearied champion of projects intended to promote benevolence and charity and laboured long in the cause of Masonry equally as he did in matters of the outer world, and invariably practised what he preached and never contented himself with lip professions but with a kindly heart was known to aid by his private purse the objects which he favoured and supported by his presence. He exercised a considerable influence over the thought and culture of the day and turned to advantage every circumstance that education, talent and station could bestow without a tinge of vanity or a particle of self-esteem, and with a fairly attuned mind did his duty manfully and courageously and with a singular honesty of purpose, not craving for popular gaze or applause but always imbued with a deep sense thereof.

In later life he was naturally labouring under disadvantages due to the weight of years, but still he showed

the vigour and strength of youth in all he did, and though a profound scholar was always in search of further knowledge like a student, and the cultivation of the perspective faculties which to the end of his days he was possessed of. He was an ardent advocate of literature, arts and sciences, was a great oriental scholar and lectured and wrote numbers of books on various subjects, including religion, and was for a very large number of years and up to the date of his death either the President or the Secretary or Member of the Managing Committee or in some way or other actively connected with a considerable number of educational, religious, benevolent and other institutions, and by dint of his knowledge, acquired by a sound education and ripe experience, ever usefully exerted himself towards the promotion of their welfare and development. To the end of his life he was a great friend of the poor and the helpless and formed and maintained solid and honourable friendships which death alone dissolved.

In the lodge he was a regular and punctual attendant at all meetings whether of the General Body or the Standing Committee, and he kept himself in evidence till the breath of life departed. Without the least fear of death overtaking him, he met his fate even in harness, for, it is known that on the morning that he died he was preparing to leave home to attend his duties as an Honorary Magistrate when suddenly he fell and lay prostrate, never to rise again.

The news of his death filled every heart with deep and genuine regret, more so his brethren in the Craft and most of all the members of this lodge, for in their case it was at once felt as if an indispensable guide had gone and the greatest and safest beacon-light they always looked to for safe passage had disappeared. The large assemblage that was witnessed at his funeral bore eloquent testimony to his sterling worth. Meetings after meetings

were held for months succeeding his decease by various public and private associations and bodies, and even a public meeting of the citizens of Bombay was held to pay a fitting tribute to his memory, which was presided over by no less a personage than His Excellency Sir George Clarke, the Governor of Bombay, at which it was unanimously said that the deceased was really a great and good man, and it was resolved that an Oriental Institute should be founded with public subscriptions to perpetuate his memory.

But in the inner circle of Freemasonry—a testimony as great, if not greater, was borne to the merits of our departed Brother, at the instance of the greatest Mason in the land, namely, Right Worshipful Brother Colonel R. H. Forman, Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India. Soon after his death a circular was issued under the order of the Grand Master deeply deploring it and the loss caused thereby and placing Grand Lodge and all the daughter-lodges in mourning up to 30th September 1909, and a Special Funeral Grand Lodge Meeting was also held on 20th September 1909, in his memory, which was presided over by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and at which a very large number of brethren under both the constitutions attended to show their last mark of respect for our much lamented Brother. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master in the course of his address on that occasion very truly said that “the memory, the loyalty and the example of our worthy Brother would never be forgotten, and that his blameless life was at once an incentive to emulation and an assurance that all was well with him and that this generation of Freemasons in India would never see his equal.” A resolution was also passed by the Grand Lodge placing on record “its deep sense of the loss sustained in the death of the deceased Brother and its abiding gratitude for the unselfish and earnest Masonic work done by him

throughout the fifty-five years in which he was connected with the Craft."

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master besides doing the honour of holding a Special Funeral Grand Lodge also took the initial step towards perpetuating our Brother's memory in two ways, (i) by a fund styled "The Cama Memorial Fund" to be subscribed for by Lodges, Chapters and Individuals and to be handed over to the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association of India to be administered by it; and (ii) by putting up a memorial tablet in the Freemasons' Hall.

The Fund is an accomplished fact and the tablet has also been erected.

Letters were also received from several lodges and brethren expressing their sympathy in the loss sustained by the lodge.

In view of the higher honour to the deceased of a Grand Funeral Lodge the lodge denied itself the melancholy duty of holding a Special Funeral Lodge in memory of Brother K.R. Cama which it would otherwise have done, but at a Regular Meeting held on 4th September 1909, it resolved that as a mark of respect to the deceased, the ordinary business of the meeting should not be transacted, and passed resolutions recording the loss caused by the death of such an esteemed and high Mason to the Craft generally and the lodge in particular and for going into mourning for three months and sympathising with his family. A very appropriate sermon in which the sterling qualities of the deceased Brother were depicted was delivered by Brother Darasha Chichgar and a resolution was also passed that a sum of Rs. 1,000 be set aside from the Charity Funds of the lodge as an endowment in his name, and that such endowment be supplemented by donations of the individual Members of the Lodge and that the income of the Fund be utilized for purposes of charity to Masons and education of the children of Masons.

With the object of further perpetuating his memory the brethren resolved that whenever they met at the festive board they should drink to his memory in solemn silence.

Such was Brother K. R. Cama, the second man and Mason after Brother Maneckji Cursetji who did all he could for Freemasonry and did it well and heartily. The following lines most appropriately applied in his case :—

“To say well is good, but to do is better,  
‘Do well’ is the spirit and ‘say well’ is the letter,  
If ‘do well’ and ‘say well’ were filled in one frame,  
All were one, all were done, and got were all the gain.”

Brother Cama was one of the Trustees of the Lodge Funds and also a member of the Freemasons’ Hall Committee on behalf of the lodge, and these places rendered vacant by his death have since been filled by Brother Rustom K. R. Cama. (For the Grand Master’s letter to the Lodge anent Brother Cama’s death and reply see Appendix T.)

The degree work done during the year was two initiations and an equal number of passings and raisings and the year closed with sixty-two members on the roll and a total fund of Rs. 18,549-5-11, of which Rs. 15,783-10-11 stood to the credit of the Charity account. At the installation meeting held on 15th December 1909, Brother Darasha Bezonji Mehta was installed as the Right Worshipful Master for the next year, 1910.

1910.—In all twelve meetings of the General Body, inclusive of the 67th anniversary meeting, and eleven meetings of the Standing Committee were held this year and there were one initiation, one passing and one raising. Two members died, namely Brother W. L. Harvey (who was an Honorary Member) and Brother Dadabhai S. Munsiffna. Dr. Ardeshir Cowasji Turner, Assistant Chemical Analyser to the Government of Bombay, was the only member initiated. The Charity Funds increased by

Rs. 1,000, being Rs. 500 contributed by the Right Worshipful Master and Rs. 500 contributed by a respected member of the lodge in memory of the late Brother Munsiffna which have been added to the endowment fund associated with the name of Brother K. R. Cama.

Two congratulatory resolutions were passed during this year, one congratulating Brother Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim on the munificent gift of Rupees Four Lacs to a proposed College of Science and the other on his having received a Baronetcy from His Majesty the King-Emperor.

The lodge also had the pleasure of passing votes congratulating Brothers Dr. Tehmulji Bhicaji Nariman and Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy Ebrahim on their being appointed Members of the Legislative Council of His Excellency the Governor and Brother Kajiji on his being appointed to be the Prothonotary and Admiralty and Testamentary Registrar of the High Court of Bombay.

His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII, Protector of the Craft and Patron of Scottish Freemasonry, died on 6th May 1910. At a meeting held on the following day at which all notified business was suspended, the lodge passed a resolution recording this most melancholy event with the sincerest regret and deepest sorrow. It also went into mourning for six months along with the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and all daughter-lodges under the orders of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

The inscription on the In Memoriam Tablet of Brother K. R. Cama was very kindly referred by the Grand Master to the lodge for its approval and was settled between them so as to incorporate therein certain suggestions made

by the lodge, and it has since been erected and runs as follows:—

*In Memoriam.*

Right Worshipful Brother and Most Excellent Companion

**KHUVSHEDJI RUSTOMJI CAMA**

Honorary Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Past Grand Master Depute, Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

Honorary Depute First Grand Principal, Grand Chapter of Scotland.

Past Grand Superintendent, Royal Arch Masonry in India under Scotland.

Past Master and for 55 years an Active Member of Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 S. C.

Born, November 11, 1831.

Initiated, 24th August 1854 in Lodge Rising Star.

Died, 20th August, 1909.

“ Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

*R. I. P.*

The lodge has also placed a medallion of the deceased Brother over the tablet with the concurrence and approval of the Grand Master, the cost thereof having been defrayed out of subscriptions made by the members.

An Honorary Membership was conferred and the Burnes' or Fundator's Medal was presented by the lodge this year to a distinguished Mason, he being no other than Most Worshipful Brother Colonel Forman. This Brother, a staunch Mason, having a 27 years' previous record, had, when Substitute Grand Master, in which capacity he was, on Lord Lamington's departure from the Indian shores, in charge as Grand Master, established an indisputable claim to the Grand Mastership with which he was ultimately by common consent endowed. After his elevation to the exalted office he delivered an address from the throne of the Grand Lodge which dealt elaborately with the dignity and status of Freemasonry in India and the universality, teachings, and ethics of Freemasonry and struck, as is well known and recognised beyond doubt, a key-note to the true understanding of the tenets and ordinances of our ancient and noble Institution and is in

itself a land-mark which can be most profitably approached with conscious and unhesitating steps with a view to the attainment of the final goal and the true and faithful discharge of one's masonic obligations and thereby his duties as a man. His subsequent addresses, utterances, and discourses in Grand Lodge and daughter-lodges and appearing in the *Indian Masonic Review* have further shown how indefatigable and ardent he has been in his endeavours in the furtherance of the best interests of Freemasonry in this country and all that appertains thereto, and that in him the Scottish Craft had not a titular figure-head but a genuine man and master in the real sense of the words. With him there is no substitute for thorough earnestness of work and he has justly earned the popularity and esteem which are now his best possessions. This lodge has been fortunate enough in attracting his attention and meriting his kind consideration and favour. Brother P. C. Sethna was made this year Substitute Grand Master and another deserving member, namely Right Worshipful Brother Meherally Devraj Master, was at the Grand Lodge convocation held on 26th November 1910 made Honorary Substitute Grand Master. Brother, A. M. Kajiji, also a member of this lodge, was at the same convocation installed as Grand Senior Warden. The lodge was, indeed, paid a very high compliment by the Grand Master accepting the Honorary Membership and the Fundator's Medal, and well may the lodge be proud to own him as one of its own, who will always have a place for it in his heart. The Installation Meeting was held on 16th December 1910, when Brother Darasha Mehta vacated the chair after a year's happy and prosperous rule according to the unanimous approbation of the Brethren, and Brother Sorab C. Hormusji was installed as the Master for the succeeding year. At this meeting Most Worshipful Brother Col. Forman was presented with the Burnes' Medal by the retiring Master.

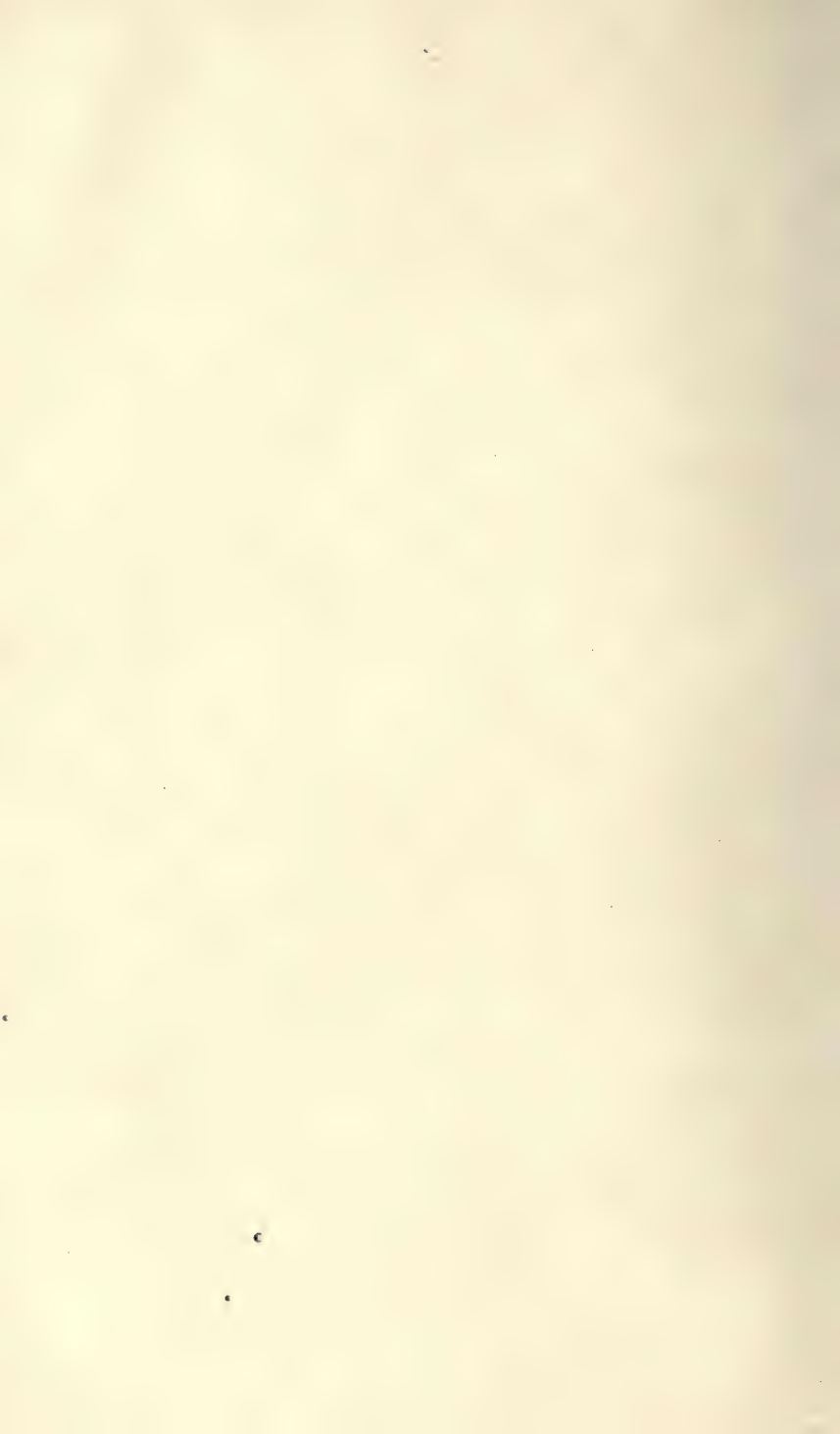
Brother D. F. Wadia presented to the lodge also at this meeting a bound type-written volume of this history, and the lodge while accepting it passed the following Resolution, *viz.*:—

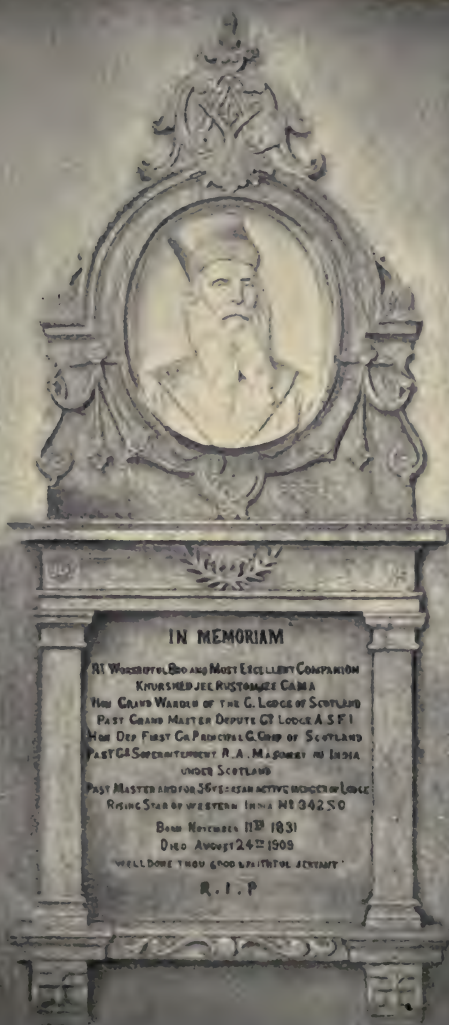
“That the offer made to the lodge by Right Worshipful Brother D. F. Wadia to make over to it the manuscript of his “History of Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 S. C. (1843-1910)” be accepted with grateful thanks, that the lodge desires to place on record its sincere and lasting appreciation of the loyalty and attachment of Right Worshipful Brother Wadia to his mother-lodge in rescuing from oblivion the unique history of its rise and progress and thereby raising the lodge in the estimation of the masonic world to its true worth; further that the lodge publish the History at its expense and present to Right Worshipful Brother Wadia an *edition de luxe* with this Resolution embodied therein and also present him with a Historian’s Jewel commemorative of the event.”

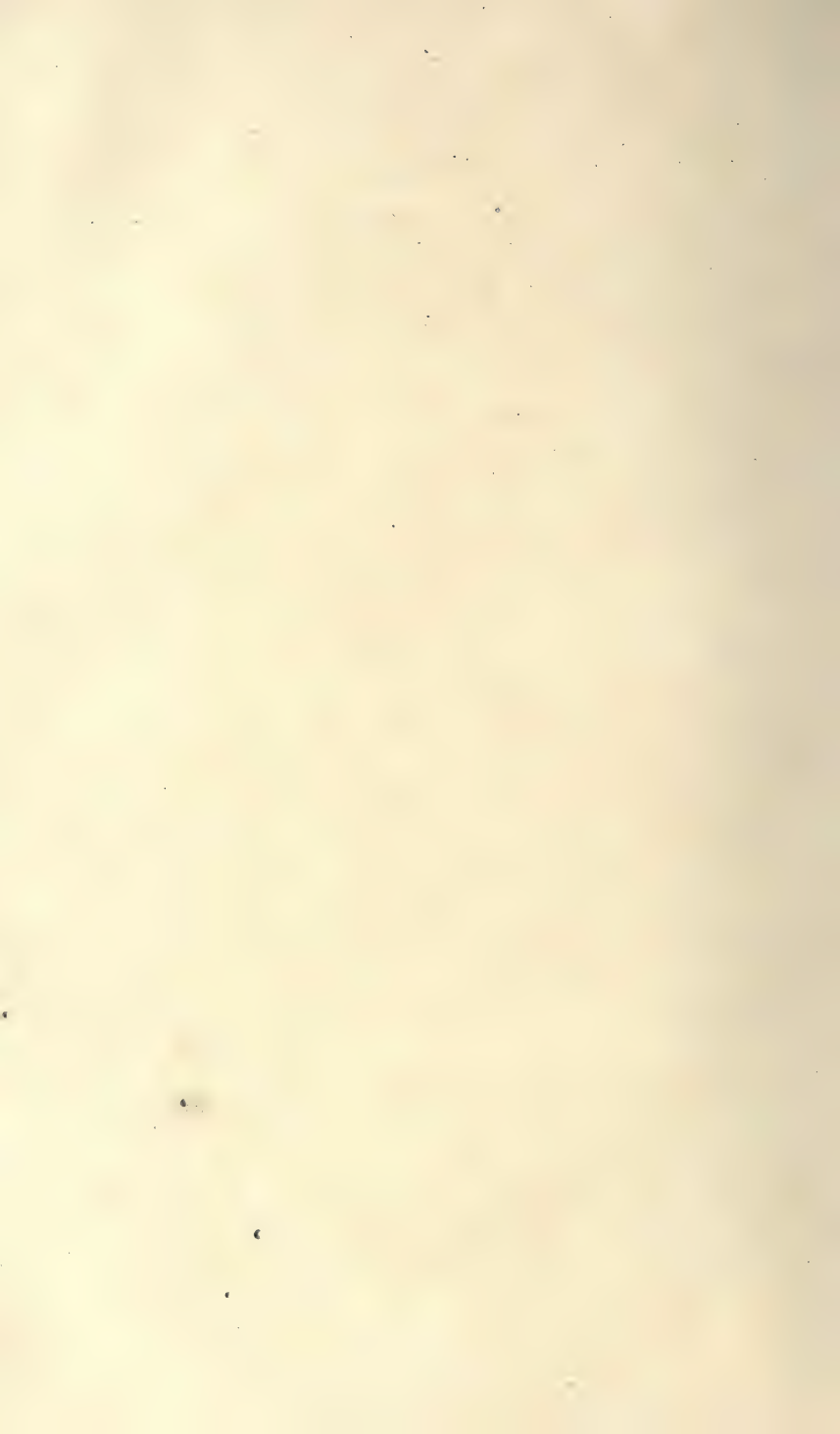
1911.—This year there was an accession of 4 members *viz.*, Mr. Hormusji Ratanshaw Dadabhoy (Merchant), Mr. Kaikhusro Manecksha Taliyarkhan (Pleader of the High Court, Bombay) Mr. Dinshaw Dadabhai Daruwalla, L.C.E., A.M.I.C.E. (Acting Drainage Engineer to the Bombay Municipality) and Dr. Maneckji Pirosha Kera-walla, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh of whom the first named two are lewüses. Two members resigned, namely, Brother B S. Shroff and Abdul Husein Abdul Currim, and two members, namely, Brother Ardeshir Framji Unwalla (who was also a Past Master) and Brother Behramji H. J. Rustomji died. A lodge of sorrow was held by the lodge in Brother Unwalla’s memory and a Brother contributed Rs. 50 to the Charity Funds of the lodge also in his memory. The degree work done during the year consisted of 4 initiations, 2 passings, and 2 raisings. In all 12 meetings of the general body and



The Author's Jewel.







13 meetings of the Standing Committee were held. A fund was started this year in appreciation of the services rendered by Right Worshipful Brother Colonel R. H. Forman to Freemasonry and for retaining a fitting memorial of same and presenting a souvenir to him, and the lodge contributed Rs. 50 thereto. During the year Rs. 1,415 were disbursed in charity and at the end of the year the funds after all disbursements and the usual donations to the Grand Lodge of Scotland Annuity Fund and the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association stood at Rs. 20,314-15-2, being Rs. 2,894-6-0 in general account and Rs. 17,420-9-2 in charity account. Brother the Honble. Dr. Temulji Bhicaji Nariman was this year appointed to the high office of Grand Master Depute, A.F.S.I., and Brother D. F. Wadia was invested as Honorary Grand Senior Warden, A.S.F.I., by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master at a special communication of the Grand Lodge held on 4th March 1911, in recognition of his labours in compiling this history. The marble medallion which was erected by the lodge in memory of the late Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama was unveiled on 11th November 1911 by Brother T. B. Nariman on behalf of the lodge in the presence of a very large and distinguished gathering of Freemasons. It is a faithful likeness of that eminent Brother and surmounts the Memorial Tablet put up last year in his memory and occupies a prominent position in the Masonic Hall. A photo of the medallion is at p. At the installation meeting held on 15th December 1911, Brother D. F. Wadia was presented with the Historian's Jewel (which was voted to him last year) by the Substitute Grand Master on behalf of the lodge. A photo of the jewel is at p. 346 (7).

Brother Sorab Cowasji Hormusji was acknowledged by common consent to be an energetic and able Master who had discharged his duties in an eminently satisfactory manner and was unanimously voted a Past Master's

jewel. With his retirement the lodge entered on the 69th year of its existence under the Mastership of Right Worshipful Brother Noshewan Piroshaw Dubash.

To summarise what has been already stated in the briefest compass possible :—The lodge was launched on its career and established chiefly for the reception of native gentlemen on 15th December 1843 in the year of Masonry 5843 with 27 leading men and Masons of the day, all (except one, *viz.*, Brother Maneckji Cursetji) being European members of Lodge Perseverance who had signed the memorable requisition for founding the lodge and most of whom were in the Civil, Military, Naval, and Judicial services of the Honble. the E. I. Company while some were connected with Commerce and Journalism. Brother Dr. James Burnes, the then Provincial Grand Master of Western India, who granted the warrant of dispensation, was the first Master and subsequently became its Honorary Master and later on its Honorary Master for life, and by his direction two more names were added to those of the requisitionists before the grant of the warrant, and nine more brethren who were affiliated on the 1st Anniversary Meeting were in commemoration of the event admitted also as Original Members. The times were then unfavourable. The bitterest prejudice, begotten of bigotry and false notions that Christianity was the moving spirit and the end and aim of Masonry, then prevailed and made the task undertaken one of the greatest difficulty. But the redoubtable Mason Brother Maneckji Cursetji who undertook it pushed it on disregarding ridicule, even hatred and contempt, and the movement attained the success which it so eminently deserved. By the time the sixth year of existence was reached it seemed there was no prospect of getting more native gentlemen as members than the lodge then already had and an ineffectual attempt was made to reconstitute it on the basis that it should be per-

mitted to initiate Europeans also. In 1856 the Lodge had reached a crisis in adversity for there was want of funds, want of members, and also want of harmony, and for a year no meetings were held. Then Brother Maneckji Cursetji was nominated the Master for 1857 and he ruled as such for three successive years and with his rule the clouds that temporarily threatened the prosperity of the lodge and had darkened its horizon disappeared and things were restored to more than a normal state of peace, prosperity, and tranquility. The lodge completed its 68th year of life on 15th December 1911.

It has had 430 members from the commencement till now, of whom 39 were Original Members, 193 have been Initiates, 155 Affiliates or Joining Members, and 43 Honorary Members. Almost all the Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Masters of All Scottish Freemasonry in India have been Honorary Members, and in former times some of the Provincial Grand Masters were also Affiliated and Voting Members. The lodge has also had the proud privilege of having on its roll of Honorary Members, Provincial Grand Masters of Bengal and Madras, the Secretaries of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and English and Irish Lords and Peers and French Noblemen, Generals of the British Army, Commanders-in-Chief of the Indian Forces, and also no less a personage than His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who still graces it. In addition to the Honorary Members outside the lodge it has up to now created as such fifteen of its own members on their retirement, in consideration of meritorious services rendered by them.

The lodge has in selecting members (and the number of it is not large considering the length of life till now) acted on very cautious principles and admitted only those who have passed the searching and severe test of ability, respectability, and moral worth. It is not to every one that has knocked that the door has been opened but only to the best among them, as can be seen at a cursory

glance at the Register of Members. Members of this lodge are men who have risen to be Members of the British House of Commons (namely, Bros. Dadabhoy Nowroji and Sir M. M. Bhowmagri, K.C.I.E.), have attained the first citizenship of Bombay and become Presidents of the Bombay Municipal Corporation and Town Councils and Standing Committees and High Sheriffs, have sat on the Legislative Councils of the Governors of Bombay and also of the Governors-General of India, have become Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay and the Small Causes Court and also Presidency Magistrates, have rendered and are still rendering eminent services to their country and mother-land and have been and are men of light and leading like the Grand Old Man of India, Sir P. M. Mehta, K.C.I.E., the late Bros. K. R. Cama, Nowroji Furdunji, (who was popularly and justly known as the Tribune of the people), Sorabji Shapurji Bengalee, Pestonji Hormusji Cama, Dossabhoy Framji Karaka, and others who in their different professions, such as Law, Medicine, Science, and the rest and in trade and commerce and other walks of life have been and are shining lights and have distinguished themselves in various ways.

Up to now, 1,287 meetings have been held, being 615 regular meetings and 71 special extraordinary or emergent meetings of the General Body, 534 meetings of the Standing Committee and Sub-Committees, and 67 installation or anniversary meetings. Of these the highest number of meetings, *viz.* 37, was held in the year 1906, the next highest, *viz.*, 34, in 1862, and the smallest number *viz.*, 1, in 1856. In all there have been 193 initiations, 182 passings, and 180 raisings. A modest beginning was made in the year 1854 in the way of inaugurating a Charitable Fund with Rs. 250 or so as the first total amount of subscriptions. Off and on additions were made thereto, but it was not until by the Bye-laws it was laid down

in comparatively recent times that a certain proportion of the fees should be devoted in charity that any real advance was made. Thereafter the Charity Funds have steadily increased and at the present day they amount to Rs. 20,000 and odd, after taking into account about Rs. 40,000 to 50,000 disbursed in charity by this time.

The lodge has struck two medals, one called the Burnes' or Founder's or Fundator's Medal, to commemorate its foundation and Dr. Burnes' connection therewith, and the other called "The Jubilee Medal," to commemorate the celebration of its 50 years' jubilee. The Burnes' Medal has been presented up to now to 30 brethren, seven of them being members at one time or another. Two of these medals in gold were presented to Bros. Dr. James Burnes and Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama. The rest were presented in silver. Our late beloved Sovereign King Edward VII had graciously done the lodge the very high honour of accepting the Fundator's Medal while in Bombay in 1875 as the Prince of Wales, and another recipient (a member of the Royal family) who has paid the lodge a similar compliment is His Royal Highness the Duke of Cannaught. The Earl of Dalhousie (once the Viceroy and Governor-General of India) Lord Elphinstone (once the Governor of Madras) Lord Leigh, Dr. George Oliver, the eminent Historian of the Craft, the Grand Masters of England, Scotland, and Ireland, the Duke de Cazé, the Most Venerable of the Grand Orient of France, their Royal Highnesses the Grand Masters of the Order in Holland and Prussia and the Princes of the Blood Royal of Persia were amongst others presented with the medal besides being made Honorary Members. The last presentation was in 1908 to Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, the present Chief Justice of Bengal, before the lodge presented it to the Worshipful the Grand Master, on 16th December 1910.

The Jubilee Medal has been presented since 1893 when it was struck, only to two brethren,—one in gold to the jubilee year Master Brother Framji Dinshaw Petit and the other in silver to a familiar figure in Freemasonry, *viz.*, Brother C. D. Furdoonji.

The lodge has, since the establishment of the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association to 15th December 1911, subscribed to the funds thereof Rupees 2,000 and odd but has not taken any benefit thereout till this date.

In the matter of the Masonic Hall the lodge has rendered very active and substantial assistance and has made a donation of Rupees 15,000, being the Nowroji Nanabhoy Trust Funds contributed by one of its members, bearing the name given to it, and also out of its funds and donations made by its ex-members and friends contributed another sum of Rupees 15,000 (fifteen thousand). Under one of the conditions on which the Nowroji Nanabhoy Trust Funds were handed over, a member of the lodge nominated by it and then appointed by the Grand Master is always a member of the Hall Committee and the large Banqueting Hall is named "The Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall." Brother K. R. Cama was such member representing the lodge till his death, and since then his son Brother Rustom K. R. Cama has filled his place.

The members of this lodge have held high offices in the Grand Lodge, and Brothers K. R. Cama, M. C. Murzban, and D. R. Chichgar have rendered valuable and enduring services to the Grand Lodge which have been more than once cordially appreciated, as appears from its records. Brother Darasha R. Chichgur has also been Secretary of the Joint Freemasons' Hall Committee for nearly thirty years.

As the outcome of the opposition of the then Lodge Perseverance to admitting Indian gentlemen within its portals, this lodge was founded and it has existed and flourished these sixty-eight years, and according to the



*Front Row.* Wor. Bro. Dr. D. P. Sethna, Rt. Wor. Bro. F. J. Patel, Rt. Wor. Bro. Maneesha B. Doctor, Rt. Wor. Bro. R. M. Chichgur, Rt. W. r. B. O.

Dr. S. C. Hormusji, Bro. Dr. K. B. Shroff, Rt. Wor. Bro. R. K. Cama, Rt. Wor. Bro. P. M. Kanga, Rt. Wor. Bro. N. Peerosha v.

*Middle Row.* Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. S. K. Engineer, Bro. B. C. Bottlewalla, Rt. Wor. Bro. M. R. Setina, Rt. Wor. Bro. D. F. Wadia, Rt. Wor. Bro.

P. B. Jeejibhoy, Rt. Wor. Bro. Maherali D. Master, Bro. J. H. Mahethomji, Bro. Dr. D. B. Bardi.

*Back Row.* Bro. B. Darabsetti, Bro. K. M. Talyarkhan, Rt. Wor. Bro. P. N. Plesader, Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. D. C. Sethna, Bro. R. H. Ccoper. Bro.

Dr. A. K. Turner, Wor. Bro. Sorabsha D. Doctor, Bro. R. P. Bharucha, Bro. K. R. Vajifbar.



independent testimony of successive Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Masters of All Scottish Freemasonry in India has held a premier position amongst native lodges.

It has always maintained its own and been loyal to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, and its relations as a daughter-lodge have always been very close and cordial with the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and its predecessors, and let us hope that it will continue on its onward career for years and years to come and maintain untarnished its reputation and place.

The total number of members now borne on the Register is 78, of whom 54 are Resident and 8 Non-resident and 16 Honorary Members. The 62 Resident and Non-resident Members comprise:—

- (a) 4 Government and Railway Pensioners.
- (b) 4 Barristers-at-law.
- (c) 9 Solicitors.
- (d) 16 members of the Medical profession,  
some of whom hold high appointments in  
the Bombay Municipality.
- (e) Twenty-one Merchants and Mill-owners or  
Agents, most of whom are also large land-  
owners.
- (f) 2 in the Shipping trade.
- (g) 3 Landlords.
- (h)  $\frac{3}{62}$  in service.

Amongst the Honorary Members are the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and Lords Sandhurst and Lamington, the Honble. Sir L. H. Jenkins, Chief Justice of Bengal, Dadabhoy Nowroji, the Honble. Sir P. M. Mehta, J. M. Cursetji, and Dr. Pollen.



## APPENDIX—A.

GRAND  
LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

TO ALL and SUN-  
 DRY to whose know-  
 ledge these presents  
 shall come GREETING  
 in GOD EVERLAST-  
 ING—Whereas upon  
 the second day of De-  
 cember one thousand  
 eight hundred and  
 forty-four—a Petition

was presented to the GRAND LODGE of SCOTLAND in name of P. W. LeGeyt, E. F. Danvers, W. A. Purnell, G. Buist, W. Simson, James Boyd, W. Wellis, H. Gibb, R. Brown, residing in Bombay and others PRAYING the said GRAND LODGE to grant a CHARTER of Constitution and Erection in the usual form for holding a Lodge under the name and title of THE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA and Proposing the persons after mentioned to be the first Office Bearers thereof, *viz.*, R. W. James Burnes, K. H. P. G., Master of Western India, etc., etc., etc., to be Master; P. W. LeGeyt, Past Master, A. Larkworthy, Senior Warden; H. Fawcett, Junior Warden, S. Compton, and W. Wellis, Deacons; M. Cursetjee, Secretary; J. Boyd, Treasurer. Which Petition with the requisite Certificates, therewith produced, having been duly considered in GRAND LODGE assembled, they were pleased to ordain a charter to be issued in the terms under written KNOW ye therefore that the Most Worshipful the GRAND MASTER MASON of SCOTLAND and THE GRAND LODGE thereof have constituted, erected and appointed,

like as they hereby constitute erect and appoint the Master, Wardens and Brethren above named to be now and in all time coming a true and regular Lodge of free and accepted Masons under the name, style and title of THE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA in Bombay and Appoint and Ordain all regular Lodges to hold and respect them as such, giving, granting and committing to them, and those to be afterwards admitted Members of the said Lodge full power and authority to meet, assemble and convene as a regular Lodge; and to enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise Master Masons, upon payment of such compositions, for the support of their Lodge, as they shall see convenient but which compositions at their initiation shall not be under the sum of One Guinea——AND with power also annually to elect and choose MASTERS, WARDENS, and other Office Bearers, recommending to the Brethren of the said Lodge to reverence and obey their Superiors, in all things lawful and honest, as becometh the honor and harmony of Masonry: AND the said Brethren becoming bound on no account to desert their own Lodge; Nor upon any pretext whatever to make any separate or Schismatical meetings independent of the Master and Wardens, for the time; Nor to introduce any other orders of Masonry than those sanctioned by the Grand Lodge; Nor to collect funds separate from the common-stock of their Lodge to the prejudice of the Poor thereof: AND DECLARING that the said Lodge and whole constituent members thereof now and in all time coming, shall by accepting this present CHARTER be bound in faithful allegiance to the said Grand Lodge as HEAD of the Masonic body in Scotland AND shall be obliged to obey and pay due regard to all ACTS, Statutes and Regulations of the said GRAND LODGE already made and enacted or hereafter to be made and enacted for the utility, welfare and prosperity of Masonry; AND generally to pay and perform

whatever is required from them for the support and dignity of the Grand Lodge: AND PARTICULARLY to account and pay into the fund of the Grand Lodge, at least, the sum of four shillings and six pence sterling, besides the usual fee of one shilling to the Grand Secretary and Grand Clerk for each member initiated in their Lodge from and after the date hereof: which sums they shall cause to be annually remitted to the Grand Secretary at EDINBURGH and at the same time transmit to him a list of the names of the MEMBERS initiated, in order that the same may be recorded in the Books of the Grand Lodge: and THE BRETHREN of said Lodgeshall be bound to record in the Books of their Lodge (which Books they are hereby authorised and enjoined to keep) this present CHARTER, their own regulations and bye-laws, minutes of their whole procedure from time to time, so that the same may be better known and more easily observed by the Brethren, Subject always nevertheless to the review and control of the GRAND LODGE: And the said Brethren are hereby required to attend the whole General Meetings and Quarterly Communications of the GRAND LODGE, by their Representatives, being their Master and Wardens for the time, or by lawful proxies in their names (provided such Proxies be Master Masons of some established Lodge holding of the Grand Lodge) so that they by their said Representatives may act and vote in the Grand Lodge and be duly certiorated of the proceedings thereof: DECLARING the said Lodge's precedence in the Grand Lodge to be from the date hereof: AND for the more effectual preservation of these presents, the same are hereby appointed to be recorded in the Books of the Grand Lodge.

GIVEN at the GRAND LODGE of SCOTLAND held in FREEMASONS' HALL in the CITY of EDINBURGH the second day of December, in the year of OUR LORD one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

AND of LIGHT Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-four.

By the Right Honourable George Lord Glenlyon, John Whyte Melville, Esquire, of Mount Melville, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and R. W. Substitute Grand Master, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Baronet, Senior Grand Warden, P. T. William Baillie, Esquire, of Polkemmell, Junior Grand Warden, William Alexander Laurie, Esquire, Grand Secretary, and John Maitland, Esquire, Grand Clerk.

THOMAS DICK LAUDER,  
Senior Warden pro tem.

WILLIAM BAILLIE,  
Junior Grand Warden.

GLENLYON, Grand Master  
of Scotland,

WHYLE MELVILLE, Sub-  
stitute Grand Master.

W. A. LAURIE, Grand Secretary.

J. MAITLAND, Grand Clerk.

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(APPENDIX B.)

*Calcutta, 16th March 1845.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

I had the pleasure to receive your kind favour of the 27th February, a few days ago, and have now the pleasure of acknowledging it and of expressing my sincere thanks to the Right Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, for the high honour they have conferred on me, in electing me an honorary member of the lodge, an honour which I duly appreciate, and am highly gratified by.

Your Right Worshipful Master has truly represented me to you, as one interested in the welfare of the *Craft* and anxious for the success of your lodge, viewing its establishment, as I do, as a means of great good, in bringing into intimate contact and mutual appreciation worthy men, whom prejudice and habit had hitherto kept asunder,

I trust that opportunities may occur, of which I shall gladly avail myself, of proving the interest I feel in the welfare of Lodge Rising Star of Western India.

Allow me to reciprocate your expression of kindness and esteem and believe me.

My dear Sir and Brother,

Fraternally and Sincerely yours,

F. W. BIRCH,

S : P : R : A :

Mr. MANECKJEE CURSETJI,

Secretary, Lodge "Rising Star of Western India."

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*Scopwick Vicarage, June 24th 1845.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

The unequivocal testimony which the Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India have given of the approbation of my labours in behalf of the service of Freemasonry, by electing me an honorary member of the lodge, is peculiarly gratifying to my feelings and I request that you will communicate to them my unfeigned thanks and gratitude for the distinction which they have conferred upon me.

I became attached to the Order at a very early age, and a more intimate acquaintance with its humanising principles have given me no reason to think that the time I have devoted to its study and development has been unprofitably bestowed. And the unqualified approval of many learned and judicious members of the Craft has assured me that my earnest endeavours to explain its doctrines and to disseminate its sacred truth have not been unproductive of solid and substantial good.

With fraternal regards to the members of your lodge both Native and European.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Your faithful Brother,

GEO. OLIVER.

To

MANECKJEE CURSETJI, ESQRE.,

Secretary, "Lodge Rising Star" of

Western India.

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*Bombay, 1st October 1846.*

My dear Sir and Brother,

"The handsome compliment paid me by the Worshipful Master, Officers and, Members of the Lodge Rising Star in the East, demands my sincere and continued gratitude, and it is with feelings of the highest pride and satisfaction I accept this distinguished mark of their favour and brotherly love."

"It is indeed an honour most gratifying, emanating from a lodge where such practical proof exists of the universally philanthropic character of our glorious institution, acknowledging no other distinction among men, save those devoted to virtue and integrity."

Yours fraternally

"On the Square"

J. R. LAMART.

Honorary Member,

"Lodge Rising Star" in the East.

BROTHER MANECKJEE CURSETJI,

Secretary,

"Lodge Rising Star"

in the East.

*Poona, 19th June 1846.*

Right Worshipful and Dear Brother,

I had yesterday the greatest pleasure in receiving your letter of the 16th instant, in which you enclosed me an extract from the proceedings of a meeting of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India, held at Bombay on the 15th of this month, at which it was resolved that I should be elected an honorary member of it, and requested to wear its medal on all occasions of ceremonies.

May I beg that you will have the goodness to take the first opportunity which may be convenient to the lodge and to yourself to express on my part the obligation I feel under, for the great kindness which has been so flatteringly extended to me, and I must not omit to add how thankful I am to you for the part you have taken on this, to me, most gratifying occasion.

Believe me to be,

Right Worshipful and Dear Brother,

Yours very Sincerely,

THOS. MC MAHON.

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From

BROTHER COLONEL BURLTON.

*Calcutta, 28th June 1846.*

My dear Sir and Brother,

It is with feelings of peculiar gratification that I do myself the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter of the 16th instant annexing copy of a Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India electing me one of its honorary members. I beg you will do me the favour to assure your Right Worshipful Master as well as the Officers and Members of the Lodge that I gratefully feel and fully appreciate the compliment which they have been so kind as to pay me and that I shall be proud to wear its Medal on all Masonic occasions. I trust I may not be deemed presum-

ing, if I add that I hailed the first Rising of your Star with very great satisfaction and that I shall ever feel the greatest interest in its success, from the conviction which I cherish that the dissemination of the Principles and Privileges of our Order amongst the educated classes of the People of India (men of intelligence and integrity being of course alone admitted) will be productive of the greatest benefit to, eventually, a large number of good and true men who in their turn will, doubtless, reflect a lustre on the Craft by an adherence to its moral precepts and a practical display of its many virtues. With sincere wishes that such may be the good points of your lodge and with fervent aspirations for its long-continued success and prosperity.

I remain, my dear Sir and B other,

Very Sincerely and Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM BURLTON,

P. Depute. P. G. M. of Bengal.

To

MANECKJEE CURSETJI, ESQRE.

Secretary, "Lodge Rising Star" of Western India.

From

BROTHER SIR WILLIAM HARRIS,

*Dharwar, 10th July 1846.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

I beg of you to convey to the Worshipful Master and worthy Brethren of the Lodge Rising Star, my grateful sense of the honour done me by the Resolution announced to me in your letter of the 15th ultimo. It is peculiarly gratifying to me to learn that the Medal struck by the lodge in honour of our Most Worshipful and esteemed Provincial Grand Master has met with such universal approbation, and I beg to assure the Native Brethren

who have in a flattering manner elected me to be an honorary member that I shall wear it amongst my most valued jewels on all occasions of masonic ceremony.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,  
Yours Faithfully and Fraternally,

WILLIAM HARRIS.

D. P. G. M.

BROTHER MANECKJEE CURSETJI, ESQRE.

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To

THE SECRETARY OF THE LODGE RISING STAR, BOMBAY.

From

DR. M. DE KIRWANG.

*13th July 1846.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

The honour which the Worshipful Master and the Brethren of the Lodge Rising Star have been pleased to confer upon me in affording me the title of an Honorary Member of the said lodge was too much unexpected and undeserved and is too much appreciated by me, that I should not have the desire of having it more evident to my own lodge. Consequently I beg leave to request of your kindness that you would have this title made authoritital for me under the form of a diploma, the possession of which I would consider as a new favour afforded.

To enable you to draw it, I have to state that I belong to the Scotch Lodge of Paris No. 6 of *Mount Senai* in which I had the honour of being admitted as a member on the 20th day of June 1845.

As I am about to leave this country by the next steamer to Suez and perhaps shall not have any opportunity of meeting again the brethren in the lodge previous to my departure, I should feel much obliged to you if you would kindly express to the Worshipful Master and the brethren my best thanks and gratitude for all the kind-

ness and partiality they have displayed upon me, requesting them at the same time to be well convinced that the lasting recollection of these favours shall always be the most gratifying to me in all the circumstances of my life.

Now, Dear Brother, let me add the fervent expression of my best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of all the Brethren of the Lodge and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and every one of them.

Allow me to enclose my modest offering to the poor and distressed.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. DE KIRWANG.

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*London, 19th August 1846.*

From

BROTHER CHARLES S. EVANS.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your very polite favour dated the 16th of June last together with a copy of the Resolution of the Lodge Rising Star held on the day previous conveying to me the gratifying intelligence of my having been unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India.

I request that you will be pleased to tender my grateful thanks for the honour thus conferred on me and assure the lodge that I shall be proud on all occasions of masonic ceremony to wear the medal presented to me.

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,  
Faithfully and Fraternally yours,

CHARLES S. EVANS.

To

BROTHER MANECKJEE CURSETJI,  
Secretary, Lodge Rising Star of W. I.

ARBROATH, SCOTLAND,  
11th September 1846.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I had the honour of receiving your kind note dated 16th June, informing me that I had been elected an Honorary Member of the Masonic Lodge Rising Star of Western India. I have since received one of the beautiful Medals which I shall have great pride and pleasure in wearing on masonic occasions. When a suitable opportunity occurs, I beg, you will offer to the members of the Lodge assembled my warmest acknowledgments for the honour they have conferred on me, and to yourself personally for your kindness in communicating to me, I can only tender my best thanks.

Although it may never be my good fortune to meet with any of the native gentlemen who are members of the Lodge, I can truly say, for I feel sentiment in my heart, that my fervent wishes for their happiness will ever be borne towards them.

I have the honour to be,  
Dear Sir and Brother,  
Yours Faithfully and Affectionately,  
JAMES ANDERSON.

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*Karachi, 10th January 1847.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

I had great pleasure in receiving your note of the 17th December last from my friend Alli Akbar Bahadur intimating to me my having been elected a member of the Lodge Rising Star. Oblige me by offering to the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of your Lodge my grateful thanks for that honour.

I have always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the Craft. It is not only here where we see the Native of India, being with the white of England that Masonry

presents herself, but in every transaction in a pure aristocracy of Morals totally independent and indifferent to distinctions in Society but into which all true-hearted men having secured a place, meet in reciprocal gratification without their love of assumption on the one side or loss of dignity on the other, linked together by the bond of brotherly love and charity. Our secrets have been kept inviolable from the creation of the world to this moment though all other Institutions have fallen.

I will not lengthen this but wishing from the bottom of my heart every success and happiness to your Lodge.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours Fraternally,

"On the L"

F. D. FORSTER,

*R. A. and Past Master, Lodge Hope.*

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#### APPENDIX C.

*Bombay, 5th November 1849.*

Dear Sir and Brother Secretary,

By command of the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Western India I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter of the 24th September addressed to the Past Grand Secretary Brother Winchester with an enclosure to the address of the Right Worshipful Master but (apparently by mistake) without any signature attached thereto, and proceed to reply to the queries therein put regarding the proposed admission of a Parsee who offered himself candidate for admission into our Order.

There is no objection to a Parsee being admitted on the score of his creed. Parsees or other Natives who believe in one God, in the world to come, and in future reward or punishment according to deeds done in the flesh are un-

questionably eligible provided they are in a respectable social position and possessed of a due sense of moral rectitude.

In the Lodge Rising Star of Western India we require them to testify to those points before giving them the obligation in their application to be admitted as well as in answering the question they are obliged to reply before receiving the obligation which otherwise in itself differs in no respect to that given to our Christian brethren.

They are obligated, however, on the "Zend Avesta" (the sacred book of Zoroaster) the scripture of the Parsees, a copy of which I have the pleasure to transmit with a request that your Lodge will accept it as a token of my fraternal regard.

I have it also in command from the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master to forward copies of the correspondence which led to the erection of the Lodge Rising Star of Western India for the purpose of admitting native gentlemen into the Craft, and to observe that the principles therein laid down have been strictly maintained and the admission only given to those of unblemished integrity and acknowledged position in Society.

The subject engrossed the earnest attention of our most eminent brethren in this quarter, who considered the step as one fraught with most important results either for good, or evil to Freemasonry, and we have, therefore, continued to exercise the strictest scrutiny in the reception of candidates. This you will best understand when I inform you that inclusive of myself, who am a Master Mason of French Creation, having been initiated at Paris, the Lodge Rising Star does not number more than (10) ten Native Brethren although it has been in

existence nearly five years. I remain with sentiments of fraternal regards.

Yours Faithfully,

M. CURSETJEE,

Secretary to the P. G. M. for the Native  
Correspondence, and Senior Warden,  
Lodge Rising Star, Western India.

To

BROTHER THOMAS HOIROX,  
Secretary, Nilgheree Lodge.

#### APPENDIX D.

LODGE PERSEVERANCE,

*Colaba, 24th December 1861.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

With reference to your note to the Worshipful Master of this lodge, dated from the Lodge Rooms, 5 Grant Buildings, and intimating the intention of Lodge "Rising Star" to meet in these rooms, which are at present occupied by Lodge Perseverance, I am desired to ask by what authority you thus date your communications or summon meetings of your lodge to hold in our rooms without having previously communicated with and obtained the consent of the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance to your so doing.

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours very Fraternally,

W. M. ELLES,

Secretary, Lodge Perseverance.

To

MANECKJI CURSETJI ESQR.,

Secretary,  
Lodge Rising Star.

*Villa Byculla, 25th December 1861.*

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of last evening and refer you to the enclosed copy of the Resolutions and correspondence passed by and between the Lodge Perseverance, the Rising Star, and the Provincial Grand Lodge with the view to cementing on firmer footing the relationship that existed, and, unless I am very much mistaken, still exists between Perseverance and Rising Star of Western India, both working under one and the same authority, in one and the same rooms, and where they severally have their warrants deposited and hung up in frames.

That no previous "consent" was ever before obtained or was at all thought necessary to obtain, for the meeting of the Lodge Rising Star in the Lodge Rooms from the Worshipful Master of the Perseverance since the construction of the former, in 1844, I can confidently assert. All that was necessary to be done on the occasion of such meeting was for the Secretary of Rising Star to intimate to the Worshipful Secretary or Worshipful Master of Perseverance, the day and time of its meeting and this, to my certain knowledge, was invariably done.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge Perseverance was, as he told me, not aware of this until I mentioned the above circumstances to him and read the papers regarding the same a few mornings ago when he favoured me with a visit at my house.

I may as well add that the privilege of holding its meeting in the Lodge Rooms was not accorded to Rising Star as a favour or without any consideration. The furniture in the Lodge Rooms was paid for in 1844 by Lodge Rising Star, Perseverance, and the Provincial Grand Lodge in certain proportions, and of which the quota borne by Rising Star was by far larger than the other two. The Star paid the quota of the Lodge rent

and expenses up to 1847, that is so long as its finances were in a condition to admit of the same. Since then the "Star" had little or no work. It met but once or so in a year at daytime, not night, for form sake. It was not called upon by, and did not pay to Perseverance anything under the circumstances just mentioned. But should the four candidates about to be balloted for, be elected, and initiated in the Lodge Rooms, Perseverance would, as a matter of right, be entitled to a moiety of our forthcoming fees; in other words to no less a sum than 400 Rupees out of 800 Rupees, though it may be for one day's use of the rooms, under the compact above adverted to.

I beg also to add that the decorations which now adorn the Lodge Rooms were personal property of the Right Worshipful Brother Burnes, presented on his departure for the use of the Brethren working under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, that is, the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, of Perseverance, of Rising Star, and of the Chapter.

Thus you will observe that I had only acted in pursuance to the past practice in not asking formal consent from the Worshipful Master of Perseverance without, in the least, intending to be discourteous to him.

Should the Worshipful Master of Perseverance, however, feel dissatisfied with this explanation or if he feels indisposed to consent to continue the arrangement as hitherto acted upon by his several predecessors, I shall, on being so informed, forthwith recall the summons and substitute another altering the place and time of our meeting. Let an immediate answer come to this, as we have little time for arranging our meeting.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, with fraternal regards.

Yours Faithfully,  
MANECKJI CURSETJI,  
Secretary.

P. S.—Since writing the above I received a note from the Worshipful Master of Perseverance, and under the circumstance therein stated, I am directed to enclose you our amended circular for the information of the members of Perseverance extra members of the Lodge, and you will observe therefrom that we shall meet on the 27th, at 6 P.M., at the Baboola Tank House instead of the "Lodge Rooms."

MANECKJI CURSETJI.

My Dear Cursetji,

When your note reached my house to day I was absent and when your messenger came afterwards for a reply I was unfortunately on the point of going to parade so that I could not answer it. I requested our Secretary to reply to your circular, for our records do not contain the information you were good enough to read to me last Sunday morning, and it is advisable, I think, that we should have a copy of it. Times have much altered since 1846 and, of course, we have not been unaffected. I question very much indeed whether the present members of Perseverance will deem the former understanding binding on them, the more particularly as it would appear that Rising Star has paid no fees. In fact it was considered defunct or it would have received a portion of the Rs. 500 left by Lord Dalhousie for distribution amongst the lodges in Bombay. However, there will be plenty of time to discuss all these points hereafter.

I should have mentioned to you that we cannot spare our Lodge Rooms on Saturday for they are in course of preparation for our Ball. We do not meet on that day, but may probably meet on the 7th January, if not, certainly on the 12th, our usual day.

Our party is not quite limited to the Brethren, but as much so as we can possibly manage, and I fear the Committee will issue no more invitations. You should

have subscribed and then no doubt some cards would have been granted. Several of the Brother-guests have been refused on the plea that we would admit no more.

Yours Sincerely,  
ASHBURNER.

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*24th December, 9 P.M.*

My dear Ashburner,

Not knowing where Brother Elles is residing I send the enclosed unsealed to you answering an official communication from your Lodge, and than what is mentioned in the enclosures I have nothing to add in reply to your note of last night, I received this morning.

Yours Sincerely,  
MANECKJI CURSETJI.

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LODGE ROOMS, COLABA.

*8th January 1852.*

Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother,

Various causes have hitherto prevented a reply being before this time forwarded to a letter from Brother Maneckji Cursetji, Secretary to Lodge Rising Star, dated 25th ultimo, to the address of Brother Elles, Secretary to the Lodge Perseverance, over which I have the honour to preside. I much regret the delay which has occurred, but it was unavoidable. I deem it advisable to reply to the letter in question myself, in order to assure yourself, your Wardens, and the rest of the Brethren of "Rising Star," how desirous the Brethren of Perseverance are, that the friendly relationship which has hitherto existed between the two lodges should be preserved.

With this intimation and to avert the possibility of your being ever again disappointed in obtaining the use of our Lodge Rooms I would suggest the propriety of the Worshipful Master of "Rising Star" fixing on the days

of the meeting of that Lodge, in previous communication with myself or the Master for the time being of "Lodge Perseverance" so that the two Lodges may not each fix on the same evening for their meetings.

Connected in an intimate degree with the cordial reciprocal good understandings between the members of the two Lodges is that of several of the Brethren of the "Rising Star" being ex-officio, extra members of "Perseverance" and *vice versa*. In order, therefore, that the Resolution passed by the Brethren on the 3rd March 1845 may be acted upon in future, I shall esteem it a favour if you will forward me at your convenience a list of such of the members of "*Rising Star*" as were on your Lodge rolls at the time of the Resolution, alluded to, being passed.

I avail myself of this opportunity of begging you will do me the kindness of directing the Treasurer of Lodge Rising Star to pay over to me the moiety of the receipts of your lodge which have accrued since last payment. In calculating the arrears I propose crediting "Rising Star" with Rupees 83-5-4, being its half of one-third share of Rupees 500, which was deposited by the most noble, the Brother Lord Dalhousie for the purpose of Masonic Charity in the hands of Lodge Perseverance and which with this appropriation will have been divided between "Lodge Saint George", "Lodge Rising Star," and the "Charitable Fund of Perseverance."

With every fraternal regard I beg to subscribe myself, Worshipful Sir and dear Brother,

Sincerely yours,

G. ELLIOT ASHBURNER,

*Master of Lodge Perseverance.*

No. 351.

To

The Worshipful Master of

Lodge Rising Star, No. 342.

*Bombay, 18th January 1852.*

Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother,

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant. The earnest desire I feel and know the members of Rising Star feel to maintain the friendly relationship which has ever existed between the two Lodges induces me to reply to part only of your letter and without delay to assure you of the pleasure your letter gave me as containing expression of the desire of yourself and the members of Lodge Perseverance to maintain and continue these friendly relations which are so conducive to the harmony and well being of the Lodge over which I have the honour to preside. The other part of your letter must be the subject of reference to the Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge and will, I hope, be arranged by them and the result communicated to you at an early opportunity. With every fraternal regard,

Yours fraternally,

H. B. LYNCH.

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*Bombay, 22nd January 1852,*

Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother,

In continuation of my letter of the 18th January, replying to your letter of the 5th January, I have now the pleasure of enclosing you an order on the Treasurer of Lodge Rising Star for Rs. 316-10-8, *i. e.*, Rs. 400 less 83-5-4 which you propose to credit this Lodge, being the moiety of the receipt of 4 Initiations on the 27th ultimo, there being no other receipt available since the last payment, the lodge being in debt as will be seen by the enclosed memorandum. The list of members of Lodge Rising Star, who were on the lodge's rolls on the 3rd of March 1845 is forwarded as desired by you. I shall

have much pleasure in fixing with you, as you suggest, the days of meetings of the Lodge Rising Star, in order to arrange the time most convenient to you.

With fraternal regards,  
Worshipful and dear Brother,  
Yours Fraternally,  
M. BOYCE.

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### (APPENDIX E.)

Proceedings at a meeting of the undersigned Brethren of Lodge Rising Star appointed as a Special Committee at the last Lodge Meeting on the 20th April 1852.

1. Read the correspondence which has passed between Lodges Rising Star and Perseverance regarding the claims of the latter against the former Lodge.

The dates of the letters are as follows:—

From—Secretary of Lodge Perseverance to Secretary of  
Lodge Rising Star, dated 24th December 1851.

Reply—of Secretary of Lodge Rising Star, dated 25th  
December 1851.

From—The Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance to  
the Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star,  
dated 8th January 1852.

From—The Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star to  
the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance,  
dated the 18th and 22nd January 1852.

\*From—The Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance to  
the Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star,  
dated 30th January 1852.

\*From—The Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star to  
the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance,  
dated 10th April 1852.

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\* These letters are missing.

2. The members of the Committee having perused the correspondence with much attention, proceed to submit their sentiment and opinions as to the lodge's future course for the consideration of the members of Rising Star.

3. The Committee greatly regret that the Worshipful Master of Perseverance should have thought it necessary to address such a letter to Worshipful Brother Lynch as the one which bears date, the 30th January last, and which, from its tone and spirit, they trust was not written with the concurrence and approbation of the Brethren of Perseverance in Lodge assembled.

4. The Committee consider the reply dated the 10th April of the Worshipful Master of Rising Star as characterized throughout by the mild and truly Masonic feeling which should always mark communications, whether personal or otherwise, between members of the Craft, and especially between the Masters of different Lodges.

5. The Committee are of opinion that the Worshipful Brother Boyce has taken a fair and just view of the claims of the Lodge Perseverance against Lodge Rising Star, and that the financial result shewn in his letter is quite correct.

6. The Committee beg to record their entire concurrence in, and approval of, the Worshipful Brother Boyce's letter to the Worshipful Master of Lodge Perseverance, dated the 10th April.

7. As regards the future the Committee are of opinion that the Resolution passed by the Provincial Grand Lodge on the 24th November 1846 should be modified ; and that an immediate application be made for that purpose to the Right Worshipful Brother LeGeyt, Provincial Grand Master.

8. According to that Resolution one half of Rising, Star's receipts are to be made over to Perseverance Rising Star having the accommodation of the Lodge Rooms. The Committee are of opinion that Rising Star's payments, under the Resolution in question, are wholly disproportionate to the accommodation and benefit received by her from the use for one or at most two nights in a month of the Rooms and Lodge paraphernalia (the proprietary right in which being vested in the Provincial Grand Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, Perseverance, and Rising Star) in Grant Buildings, and that the effect of the Resolution is to divert, in fact, the greatest portion of her funds unto the treasury of Lodge Perseverance.

9. As the Committee are of opinion that it cannot be the desire of the Provincial Grand Lodge or of the Brethren of Perseverance, that Perseverance should gain at the expense of Rising Star, they beg to propose the following as the basis of the arrangement to be submitted for the consideration of the Provincial Grand Lodge and Perseverance :—

- i. That Rising Star continue to have as heretofore the use of the Lodge Rooms, Lodge Furniture and lodge Refreshment kit.
- ii. That in consideration of such accommodation Lodge Rising Star pay such portion of the rent and cost of establishment as may be determined upon by the Provincial Grand Lodge and Perseverance in addition to a monthly allowance for the use of the kit, etc.
- iii. That Rising Star pay all expenses attending her meetings on account of lights, extra servants, refreshments, and
- iv. That a Committee consisting of two members of each Lodge be appointed to settle the matter, an Officer of the Grand Lodge being appointed as Umpire or President.

10. Both lodges having been so long bound together for the promotion of the best interests of the Craft in Western India, the Committee hope that the good understanding and truly masonic feeling, which has existed since the formation of Rising Star, will still continue to mark the intercourse between the two Lodges, and that the matter now under consideration may be settled equitably and to the satisfaction of Perseverance and Rising Star, so that harmony and brotherly love may prevail amongst us.

11. On the 3rd March 1845 the Brethren of Perseverance passed the following Resolution:—

“That the actual members of Lodge Rising Star of Western India be considered extra members of Lodge Perseverance, be warned of its meetings, and be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary members excepting that of speaking or voting on questions before the Lodge.”

12. The Committee regret to find that the above Resolution (as honourable to Perseverance as to Rising Star) has been recently abrogated by Perseverance and that it has been ruled that members of Rising Star wishing to join Perseverance must be balloted for and pay the joining fee.

13. The Committee being firmly convinced that the same good feeling which Rising Star always felt for Perseverance, still exists, would recommend for consideration that the same privilege which was reciprocally accorded to the Brethren of Perseverance, be allowed to remain in full force, and that all the Members of that Lodge continue to be considered extra Members of Rising Star, agreeably to the terms of the Resolution of 3rd March 1845.

W. BLOWERS.

W. WELLIS.

G. KINGSTONE.

M. O'MEALY.

M. CURSETJI.

## APPENDIX F.

*Bombay, 20th September 1852.*

SIR AND BROTHER,

I exceedingly regret that in a moment of excitement I so far forgot myself as to erase my signature to a masonic address presented to you in the Rooms of Lodge Perseverance on the 12th February last and beg to offer my sincere apology for the act.

Yours obediently,

G. E. ASHBURNER.

To

W. BLOWERS, ESQR.,

&amp;c., &amp;c.,

Bombay.

## APPENDIX G.

“Brother,—Will you permit us to send you a slight testimony of our esteem and our lively sympathy. There is among you a Mason whose virtue and whose wisdom are known to you. He has presided over your labours, he has made himself remarkable by his enlightened zeal for the good of Freemasonry. He is good, generous, and friendly; in one word, a true Mason. Cede to us the right of sharing with his mother-lodge the honour of reckoning him among the number of our children.”

“The English Lodge No. 204 at its meeting of the 27th day of the second month of the year 5852 of the true light accorded to him the title of Honorary Member; it sends him a jewel in testimony of its affection of its esteem and of its gratitude.”

The jewel is the symbol of a master of a lodge and bears the following inscriptions, on one side,

“ L’Anglaise No. 204 St. John Bordeaux.

Hon : Member W. Blowers,”

and on the other—

“ La L’Anglaise (Bordeaux).

and W. Blowers (Bombay).

Estime, Affectionet Reconnaissance.”

The jewel is suspended from a blue collar with gold lines.

## APPENDIX H.

*Free Masons’ Hall, 11th April 1855.*

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND DEAR BROTHER,

I am directed by the Right Worshipful Officiating Provincial Grand Master of Western India to acquaint you that the whole of the correspondence forwarded by you under cover of your letter of the 26th February last has been laid before the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Lodge are of opinion that inasmuch as proxies are not admissible to the ballot box, they cannot be permitted in the election of a Master and that their introduction in the case referred to was contrary to the universal practice of the Craft, to the spirit of the constitution and in defiance of the Bye-laws of the Lodge over which you preside.

The Provincial Grand Lodge would therefore desire to point out to Lodge “ Rising Star ” that they have fallen into error and that the election of Brother Crawford cannot be regarded as valid, and the Provincial Grand Lodge request that the members of the Lodge will at their next regular meeting proceed to the re-election of a Master in due and ancient form, the Secretary taking care that seven days’ notice of the business of the meeting be given to each member.

The Provincial Grand Lodge guarantees the validity of all Brother Crawford's acts whilst filling the Chair of Lodge Rising Star.

The Provincial Grand Lodge desire to express their opinion that Brother Merwanjee Maneckjee, who has brought this subject to their notice, has been contumacious in his behaviour in refusing to obey the summonses sent to him and they request that he may be admonished in open Lodge that such conduct is a violation of the principles of Freemasonry, which require especially the exercise of three excellencies of character, "Secrecy, Fidelity, and Obedience".

The documents referred to in the last paragraph of your letter are returned as requested.

I have the honour to be,

Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

W. BLOWERS.

Provincial Grand Secretary.

The Worshipful Master of

Lodge Rising Star,

Bombay.

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*(Brother M. M. Settna's Reply.)*

Brethren,—I have listened with attention to the reprimand just administered from the Chair. Had it not been the command of the Provincial Grand Lodge, whose authority I am bound to obey, I should have said a great deal to show that if one of the two, that is Brother Crawford or I, deserve severally to be reprimanded for our supposed misdemeanour, it was he and not I should have been subjected to a trial like the present for infringing the most fundamental principle of our Order, but as it

is, it would ill become me to hesitate for a moment to acquiesce cheerfully in the decision which the Provincial Grand Lodge seems to have arrived at in finding fault in a part I took in the proceeding.

I, however, can plainly see that the Provincial Grand Lodge has obviously (whether intentionally or not I cannot say) been misled as to matters of fact involving a very simple question at issue between me and Brother Crawford and the party of brethren who supported him unconstitutionally in the Chair, which act has been, as I had all along contended, declared by the Provincial Grand Lodge to be altogether illegal and the election of the Master of this lodge had to be gone over again.

I have been charged, it would seem, for not obeying the lawful command of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge Rising Star. I did so for reasons, and to my mind most cogent, which I gave out in my several letters, and in which I believe very few indeed would differ, that having questioned the legality of the election in question of Brother Crawford, protested throughout against his acts, I could not consistently and conscientiously attend any meeting or any body of brethren met by his order or by a resolution of the Lodge of which he had been, as I have shown and as the Provincial Grand Lodge have certified, illegally elected Master. If, however, the Provincial Grand Lodge please and think otherwise, all I can say is I am sorry for it.

The next gravamen of the charge is that I complained directly to the Provincial Grand Lodge by infringing the Rule 38 of our Bye-laws. I beg to say that I repudiate the charge. I did not infringe that Rule. The Rule is as follows :—

“That in the event of any Brother feeling himself aggrieved by any decision or proceeding of the Lodge he shall be at liberty to appeal to the Provincial Grand Lodge

of Western India ; such appeal being preferred through the Worshipful Master of the Lodge."

Now, my complaints have been addressed to the Provincial Grand Lodge and sent to the Secretary of our Lodge for transmission, and I, to take time by the forelock and as the Provincial Grand Lodge was then about to meet in a few days and not to meet again for three months, furnished its Secretary with a copy or duplicate of my said complaint transmitted, as before said, through the channel prescribed in rule No. 38 above quoted. And when I had found it indispensable to transmit to the Secretary of the Lodge my formal and solemn protest against the proceedings of the Lodge while the question of the legality or illegality of the election of the Worshipful Master was decided by the Provincial Grand Lodge, I sent a copy of it to the Provincial Grand Master with an observation or two therein of which I kept no secret with the Lodge, for I had communicated it the very next instant to the Secretary of the Lodge. I have thus shown that the position I took at the outset I maintained throughout to the end, from which the result of my appeal to the Provincial Grand Lodge far from shaking me, have confirmed me in. Secondly, that I have not directly corresponded with the Provincial Grand Lodge but through the medium of this Lodge, only furnishing the executive of the former with copies of my said representation sent through the channel of the latter.

I heartily regret the existence of any unfriendly or unbrotherly feeling among us but I consider I did my duty to the Craft in general and this Lodge in particular in thus bringing forward this vital question for the final decision of the superior authorities at the risk even of incurring personal ill-will or unfriendly feeling of others towards me, though on my part I declare as a man and mason, I have none towards any of the brethren.

If Brother Crawford be this day re-elected to the Chair of the Lodge in a constitutional and not unconstitutional manner I shall be bound most cheerfully to obey him and lawful commands that would emanate from him or of the Lodge of which he may be so elected as a master.

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## APPENDIX I.

VILLA BYCULLA,

*20th July 1854.*

My Dear Bar,

The question now under our consideration, or rather of the Grand Lodge Committee of which you are the Chairman, and to which Blowers asked me to attend, is, I think, of the greatest importance, greater perhaps than the generality of the existing members of both the Rising Star and Perseverance commonly comprehend. It is a question that goes to the very root of the constitution of our order, and if not cautiously approached and calmly discussed, and grappled with firmness, it might tend to subvert not only the main object for which Lodge Rising Star was formed but to destroy the very landmark of masonry.

I thought at first not much of the squabbles between members of both the Lodges, which commenced on Brother Ashburner taking the Chair of Perseverance two years ago, and from that time might be dated the black balling of the members of the one into the other when proposed to be affiliated. But matters have arrived at a crisis now, so much so that the existing Worshipful Master of the Star gave out that he would rather have, or recommend the ballot to be done away with, or increase the number of the negative balls, which, in other words, amount to the same thing.

And if this is done, what next? Our landmark being removed, that is, strictest scrutiny the due and only safeguard against questionable admittance dispensed with, any person, no matter who or what he may be, can obtain easy admittance into our temple. All that he will be required to do is to get one to propose and another to second him, for he is sure to secure the preponderance of the white ballot for him. I doubt of its expediency in respect even to Europeans, most solemnly protest in respect to the admittance of natives.

The peculiar circumstances under which the native lodge was, for the first time, here erected, the serious difficulties we have had to battle with, the utmost anxiety we manifested on the one hand to guard against any untoward event by an influx of intrants, while on the other to keep up the Lodge in its purity of purpose, you, who are one of the two or three of its original members now here, who took very active part in its construction, know so well that I need not enter into historical details. But I must not omit to remind you of the degree of responsibility I then undertook upon myself, or rather our late and present Right Worshipful Past Grand Masters threw on my shoulders in opening the portals of masonry to the "jas and khas." I pledged to acquit myself of that responsibility to the extent of my knowledge, power and ability. Though poor in the latter two, I was not wanting in my zeal for the cause we had undertaken, and how I performed my part of the same I leave the Lodge records to speak and testify.

That I would not have a candidate proposed without the most strict and searching scrutiny into his moral worth, mental capacity and personal fitness on which, particularly the first requirement, you and others know how very tenacious I have always been (you may remember in some instances I had written to enquire of you touching the fitness of the applicants of whom you

were supposed to know something), that several applicants had to wait for months before their names were brought forward to enable my prosecuting the enquiry. Every correspondence relating to this was read in open Lodge, if in favour of the candidate with an outline of the candidate's family, character and pursuits, the members present were invariably made acquainted in order to enable the members (Europeans know little or nothing of the same) to judge of the fitness or otherwise of the candidate for admission, whilst the names of those not brought forward or if proposed for admission withdrawn under instructions of the Worshipful Master if they were on enquiry found to be short of moral and mental worth or personal fitness and among those rejected candidates or those whose names not brought forward there were some of my own friends and relations whom on personal considerations I should have liked to have seen admitted.

The motto, I proposed giving our Lodge, and which you and others invariably heard me declare in and out of its meetings, was "We glory in the quality not quantity of our intrants." We inaugurated our first meeting with the resolution "*To admit native gentlemen of acknowledged position and integrity*" (the preliminary correspondence between the Rising Star and the Provincial Grand Lodge on the subject I think is essential for every member to read over and study at the present juncture). The head or influential members of the castes brought forth their influence to check our progress. We waited for better days. They were long in coming: in the meantime I kept up, I may say, the lodge at my own expense rather than to open its portals too fully and widely to every one who chose to get into it by asking for.

The original members gradually dropped off. The remaining got impatient for working, and it was lately ruled to relax our original resolution a little. I too

thought it might advance the cause of our order if we could admit a few of the young Bombay whose moral worth would stand the required test of examination. But the present move among some of the members of the Lodge is to place a little or no limit to the freedom of admission, or in other words, reverse the motto, "quantity not quality" of intrants, at least it would seem so.

On leaving Bombay last year, our dear esteemed Bro. LeGeyt placed me in the Chair of the Star. I refused to take it for several reasons; among others, a worthy member, Brother Ballingal, was ready to take it, and I cheerfully vacated it in his favour. I was on that occasion particularly enjoined by the Right Worshipful seriously to continue guardful of the admission of candidates. But when I found it was impossible for me to do so from having no means of knowing aught about a candidate, except reading his name, in the circular sent round a few evenings previous to his being ballotted for, I of course within such short interval would scarcely have time to enquire as to his "whereabouts and whatabouts" and finding that an attempt was made to ballot for an objectionable candidate one evening, although the summons convening that meeting made no mention of the candidate to be so ballotted for that night (happy, on this legal objection his election was deferred when on a ballot though twice repeated on the appointed night the candidate in question was rejected). The objection did not originate with me, but with others for which, however, I saw good ground. I thought it advisable to address our Right Worshipful a private note on the subject with twofold objects to exonerate myself of the responsibility being imposed on me and to point out a means by which the position of the Lodge might be guarded against danger of which note I will just give you an extract or two. I said, "Masonry is in danger. I conscientiously aver, if candidates such as the

one I have mentioned (of whom Bro. LeGeyt happened to know something), we got into our temple, where would you stop? I cannot be expected to be always attending the Lodge or to command attention from its members generally. There must be a watch-guard, I therefore suggested."

On these several premises I would propose that there should be a committee, a standing one, always appointed in the Lodge consisting of two Europeans of whom its Worshipful Master be one with a casting vote, one Mahomedan and one Parsee to enquire first into the character and position of every candidate, whether he is an independent or dependent man, or placed under family or other influence, and into his moral worth generally, before his name is to be brought forward, and, secondly, that no candidate is to be initiated on the night of his election but at the subsequent monthly meeting when and after the minutes of the preceding meeting are confirmed.

The objectionable candidate, as I have above said, was on ballot rejected. The objection did not originate with me, though I concurred in the weight of that objection, and yet directly was I charged by one of the members to have put up others to black ball the objected candidate! How I met my accuser, how on his own ground I floored him, I leave you to satisfy by the perusal of the accompanying. The thing was beneath my further notice, and I took none about it afterwards.

Since the above, ten members of Rising Star on being proposed for affiliation at Perseverance, were, I heard, invariably black balled, and there has been black balling wholesale in Rising Star, both for candidates proposed for affiliation and initiation, with both of which directly or indirectly I have had no concern. I was absent on some of the stormy nights from our meetings, and when I was present some of, the candidates, though not proposed and seconded by me but whom I strongly supported by re-

commending them by an address to the attention of the meeting on several grounds, were rejected. I demanded repetition of the ballot, thinking there might have been some mistake. The next time there were more black balls than at first. This had the appearance, at least, of the existence of party feelings, and it has been asserted that this was owing to some difference among the members of Perseverance and Rising Star confined, as they said, to the rupee-paying members of both. How far these statements are correct I have no means of judging, not having had any concern in the matter, directly or indirectly.

I strongly am against the wholesale system of black balling in any Lodge, whether our own or Perseverance, and although I concur in the advisability of adopting a measure calculated to smother, not inflame, the existence of any angry feeling between Masons and members of one or other Lodges, yet doing away with the hallowed privilege, the sacred right of each member to vote, according to his light or view, of the propriety or otherwise of electing any member, or any other question to be decided by ballot, or by enlarging the numbers of the negative ball, which I contend is the same thing as doing away with the ballot, would be the most objectionable mode of accomplishing the object, and it would be making bad worse again. If, as I heard it suggested, the negatives are required to stand up, say, required to give in open Lodge the reasons for objecting to a candidate, in the one case the very principle of ballot is rendered void of utility, by letting everybody know that A and C blackballed B, which A and C for reasons of their own would be the last men to like or to become an open enemy of the party blackballed or of his advocates and friends, and in the other case it would be vesting a Master of a Lodge with an extraordinary power of getting out every family secret or private history or character of every rejected candidate which

ought, for the sake of Masonry, sake of society, and for the sake of decency, to be suffered to remain buried in the individual breast,—otherwise what would Masonry be then? Instead of being an assembly of “good men and true” for the purpose of introducing peace, brotherly love and charity among mankind in general and Masons in particular, it would engender, foment and foster the very reverse thereof.

Heaven forbid that one valuing his own peace of mind and enjoyment of reputation of being a good man and true should subject himself to be enrolled in such a society, to hear debates on peoples’ general character—not public but private; it would pollute the very essence and spirit of our order. Avaunt then, I would exclaim masonry!

Although as I have said above, I yielded to the suggestion to relax a little our past rules in respect to the admission of natives, for I considered, as I consider, that by admitting into our Craft, by being disciplined as Masons, and brought into closer intercourse with those whose first duty is to maintain their position erect by respecting truth; some of those young Indian party, if found independently circumstanced and whose moral character stand the test of an enquiry to be instituted, if possible, in the quiet and less arduous mode I have suggested, would be valuable requisitions yet I would not recommend even the tag-rag of the other day, because he passed a creditable examination in a college or school, nor would I take up every man of family, of rupees, or otherwise favourite with this and that class of Europeans.

We, as Masons, have a duty of higher grade to perform. In the cases of natives of this country, the duty—I may add responsibility—increases tenfold; painful as it is to me, truth forces me to say they, as a body, sadly require that moral impress to befit them into general society, much less into that of ours. Where we could we

would never be too watchful. A word of a Mason is a safeguard from an European member, if he vouches for the admission of an European candidate of whom he may be supposed to know much. But vouchsafing for a native candidate by an European who is not supposed to be so conversant as a native, required to be most carefully considered. If the slightest shade of objection is raised to impugn the propriety of admitting a native candidate by one of our members, whether native or European, I would not be acting to my duty if I supported such a candidate.

A native candidate need only not be living under the tongue of good report, but also he must be beyond even the shade of a supposition to the contrary.

The case between a native and European Lodge is widely different, and should not be conducted under one and the same rule or precedents.

The more I think of this as a man and a Mason, the greater I feel the responsibility we have assumed to ourselves in throwing open and widening the portals of masonry to the natives of this country, and in corresponding ratio the greater degree of circumspection is requisite than in the cases of Europeans to guard against any untoward mishap which those who originally opposed us in this undertaking made us beware of !

I think I have done my duty in letting you know so fully and so unreservedly my feelings and sentiments on the subject, and as the Chairman of the Committee you are welcome to (and I shall be glad if you will) lay this before Brothers Compton and Blowers, who appear to me to be the only remaining original members of the Star now here who took an active share in debating the question when first started, now 10 years ago.

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE.

P. S.—I commenced writing this letter last night and did not finish it till past this morning. I shall cause a copy to be kept ere ending it to you.

## APPENDIX J.

To

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE SHROFF, ESQR.,  
BOMBAY.

*Bombay, 25th April 1862.*

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,

We, the undersigned Master, Officers and Past and Present Members of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342, in pursuance of a Resolution passed at the regular meeting of the Lodge on the night of the 19th December 1859, avail ourselves of this opportunity to present you this address, expressive of the many obligations and sincere esteem we feel and entertain for you on account of your exertions on behalf of Masonry in general, and of the Lodge in particular.

You, Worshipful Sir, have been the distinguished Native Gentleman on this side of India who has been fortunate to be the first to receive the glorious Masonic light and who has thereby laid open the portals of this ancient and honourable Fraternity to every good and respectable Native Gentleman.

You, Worshipful Sir, have been, moreover, the main cause of the erection of this Lodge.

At the latter end of the year 1843 Right Worshipful Brother Burnes, the then Provincial Grand Master of Western India, in conjunction with the Right Worshipful Brother the late lamented Brother LeGeyt founded the Lodge with the eminent assistance of your Worshipful self the only Native Gentleman who then belonged to our Masonic Craft.

When governing the Lodge as the Worshipful Master in the Chair you have showed and proved to the Brethren that your heart and head were guided by the Masonic virtues.

You were a perfect Ashlar whereupon to try and adjust our Masonic opinions and actions.

In short, Worshipful Sir, you cannot but spontaneously exact from us our deep-felt esteem, love, and gratitude for the several and valuable services rendered by you to the "Lodge Rising Star," either as one of its originators or as its oldest member who remained attached to it uninterruptedly from its very commencement to the present moment or as its staunchest and sincere friend as much in its days of adversity as in its days of prosperity.

Worshipful Sir, we are sensible of the loss the Lodge shall sustain during your temporary absence from this country. We shall have the consolation, however, in your absence of looking upon your likeness (which is expected back shortly from China) with pleasure and delight, as it will remind us of a distinguished Brother whom we feel proud to honour this evening.

Had the jewel and apron, voted to you, arrived from England ere this it would have given us great pleasure in having them presented to you this evening to be carried by you to England, which when worn by you there, would have reminded you in that distant country of your loving brethren of this Lodge.

In conclusion, accept our sincere wishes and may the Great Architect of the Universe guard you and your children and keep you in His Holy shelter, and may the bond of friendship and good fellowship which subsists between you and the members of the Lodge be never severed till we are called upon to visit the Grand Lodge where the Great Architect of the Universe is the supreme ruler and Great Grand Master.

*Reply.*

The Worshipful Past Master, Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee, in returning thanks to the Worshipful Master and Brethren for the honour they had done him, said as follows:—

"I am obliged to you, brethren, for the very kind manner in which you have appreciated the little I have

been able to do for the Lodge, in doing which I feel I have only done my duty. There were difficulties, and of no ordinary nature, in the reception of the Natives of India in the bond of the Fraternity. The then most distinguished Mason, Right Worshipful Brother Burnes, and a coadjutor of his, Brother Barrow, wished that I should be made a Mason, and I made an application, but the members of the Lodge in which I was proposed (Lodge Perseverance), who were then under the English banner raised objections to my election, not for any individual disqualifications or demerits but solely because I was a native. They argued that if they opened the portals of Masonry to one native they would be obliged to open to all and they would not know where to end and demurred to my being admitted to enter the Craft.

"Twenty-one years ago when I was in England, I was to be made a Mason under the auspices of the Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, but when I was in England he was on the Continent and when he returned to England I had been away on the Continent. I was disappointed.

"When I went to Paris I was initiated in the Craft at the Lodge La Glorie de l'Universe by my esteemed friend, the Duke de Cazé. After my return to Bombay I was asked to visit Lodge Perseverance, which I refused to do, and when being proposed a joining member objections were again raised for my joining. The late lamented Worshipful Brother Le Geyt and many other distinguished Masons then came to the resolution rather to resign the Lodge if I were not admitted, and to open a new one expressly for the admittance of natives, which laid the foundation of the "Star."

"I look up to Masonry as one of the instances in bringing up the morals of the natives of India. Give them an education as much as you like but it cannot alone elevate the morals without the aid of Masonry, which brings them into closer contact and ties of friend-

ship and bonds of fellowship in a society mixed like this.

"I am glad to say that the efforts have originated in the erection of this Lodge, in which I am proud to see so many of my native friends in the ties of friendship and fellowship. I deserve no thanks for what I have done. A goblet or a plate would have been of little use to me, but as you have been pleased to have my picture put up here I proposed then that a Brother Artist was in poor circumstances and a few rupees this way put into his hands would not be ill-spent, and that the Lodge funds might not suffer I proposed to contribute a purse, and Brother Secretary, you shall receive from me a sum equivalent to money spent on the picture, to form a nucleus to a fund for charitable purposes. Dear and Worshipful Sir and Brethren, my short stay in England will not sever my connection from the Lodge, and I hope to see you one and all in good health and prosperity after my return."

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#### APPENDIX K.

*East Gate, Lincoln,*

*September 12th, 1862.*

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, OFFICER, AND BRETHREN  
OF THE LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA.

My dear Brethren,

It has been remarked by a profound moralist that a token of respect to a man advanced in years conveys more real gratification to his mind than would have been produced at any earlier period by a similar demonstration.

Your kind approval of my labours, communicated by our worthy and esteemed Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee, accompanied by a vote of a Burnes' Medal, affords a striking illustration of the above truth.

As you justly observe in the Resolution, I have laboured for more than half a century in the cause of Masonry and I have endeavoured to illustrate its transcendent beauties and to place it on its legitimate basis as a benevolent institution calculated to improve the morals and enlighten the understanding of all worthy men of whatever climate or religion who have accepted it as a light to guide them through the devious wilderness of this world in their progress to another and a better.

Under the impression that the Lodge Rising Star of Western India is prosperous and flourishing I sincerely pray that although the distance prevents us from becoming personally acquainted with each other here, we shall meet in a more perfect state of happiness in the Grand Lodge above.

Believe me to be, my dear brethren, ever truly yours,  
GEO. OLIVER.

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*Grand Hotel,*

*Paris, 20th September 1862.*

MONSIEUR LE MARSHALL.

Most venerable Frère,

I have the honour of sending Your Excellency the enclosed from Lodge Rising Star of Western India conveying its resolution to present you with one of its medals.

I have been deputed to present that medal to you, which I shall feel great gratification in doing in a manner most acceptable to you. Friday you were out of Town when I enquired at your Hotel, while my stay in Paris will be but of a very short duration. I trust to your affording me an early opportunity of enabling me to execute the commission with which I have been charged by the brethren.

You may like to know something of this Lodge. It is one of peculiar, or rather I should say formed under peculiar circumstances.

There were objections (unmasonic ones of course) started by some of the European Masons to the admission in the portals of our beloved Order of the Natives of India, there being no precedent to guide their course therein. I was the first Native of that country who when first travelling in Europe in 1841 was initiated in Paris in the Lodge *A l'Gloire de l'Universe* under the auspices of one of your predecessors, my deeply lamented friend Duc de Cazé, and I subsequently have been in a measure instrumental in founding the Lodge aforesaid for the reception of my countrymen, and the medal of which one I have been deputed to present to you was struck in honour and commemoration of the advent so interesting in the annals of Freemasonry.

You will thus observe, Most Worshipful Sir, that to the spirit of the French Masonry our Native brethren in India owe the kindling and diffusion of the "light" among them.

With consideration of high respect and fraternal feelings,

I remain, Dear Sir and Most Worshipful Brother,

Yours devoted to service,

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE.

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Marshall

et haut Venerable Frère Magnon

illustrious et haut Grand Master France, etc. etc. etc.

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Place Vendomme,

L'amtire Parfaite,

S. L. A. D. G. O. De Fr.

Or. de Paris le 24 Sept. 1862.

To

The Respectable LODGE RISING STAR OF BOMBAY,  
S. S. S. S. Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens  
and the rest of the Brethren.

Being overwhelmed with the kind reception given me  
by the most respectable and dear Brother Maneckjee

Cursetjee, words fail me properly to express to you my sentiments and gratitude with which my heart is filled just now. Thank you, thrice thank you.

I am happy at being remembered by my very dear and honoured Bro. Camajee, neither have I forgotten him. We often think of him. May God protect him !

You each and all can rely upon my devotion. I shall endeavour to be worthy of the medal and of having the presentation of the Lodge Rising Star.

Send me your orders and I shall feel proud to execute them.

Yours devotedly and affectionately,

Senget 30:

Representative of the Club de Bosphore,

Grand Lodge of Constantinople.

To

The Just and Perfect Respectable LODGE RISING STAR,  
No. 342, of Western India, Bombay.

Illustrious, Worshipful and Most Respectable Brethren,

It was impossible to touch my feelings and to honour me more than by judging me worthy of being associated with you and by enrolling my name amongst the honorary members of your Lodge, add to which the pleasure I derived at meeting the truly distinguished Brother the amiable bearer of the letter and the medal from your Lodge, I mean the very illustrious Bro. Maneckjee Cursetjee and which shall never be forgotten by me. A third cause for my rejoicing is the knowledge I have obtained of my Worshipful friend Cursetjee Rustomjee Cama being at the head of such a large body of respectable Brethren. I pray that the G. A. O. T. U. may keep all the Brethren of the just and perfect Lodge Rising Star in happiness

and health and that I may have often the occasion to give you a substantial proof of my attachment towards you.

Most illustrious Worshipful and respectable Brethren receive my sincerely masonic expression of my eternal gratitude for the distinguished honour you have done me of which I shall be proud.

In the mysterious numbers which you know

Your Most Devoted Bro.,

Meding 30.

Representative of the Grand Lodge of Saxony  
in the Grand Orient of France.

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#### APPENDIX L.

*Villa Byculla, 19th March 1863.*

Sirs and Brethren,

With reference to what occurred at the last regular meeting of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, and before confirming its proceedings at the ensuing meeting summoned to be held to-morrow I feel constrained to ask you to read before the Lodge the enclosed true transcript I send of the correspondence between Rt. Wor. Bro. Judge and me.

If the subject-matter of the said correspondence or any trace of it remain recorded or be allowed to remain recorded in the minutes of the Lodge, then, in justice to this distinguished Mason and a Worthy Brother, I request the Lodge to have embodied in its minutes of proceedings what he wrote to me, my answer and his reply. (Vide the enclosed.) But if otherwise, if the records of the Lodge bear no mention of the subject, then, the enclosed need not be embodied in the minutes but merely read in open Lodge and recorded among its miscellaneous correspondence.

I will not and I regret considerably, conveniently I cannot attend Lodge meetings.

Your faithful servant and brother,

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE,

Past Master of Lodge Rising Star of Western India.

To

SECRETARY, LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA,

Lodge Rooms, Colaba.

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*Transcript of the enclosures to Rt. Wor. Bro. Maneckjee Cursetjee's letter, dated 19th March 1863.*

*27th February 1863.*

My dear Maneckjee,

Barton informs me that you proposed me as an Honorary Member of Lodge Rising Star and that I was unanimously black-balled, there not being a single white ball in the box. Is this information correct?

If it is correct, will you have the kindness to inform Lodge Rising Star that as you proposed me without having first obtained my consent, they had no right to ballot me and that their ballot by all the rules and customs of the Craft is void and that they have no right to record it upon their minutes.

I trust to you to see this act of justice done me if Barton's information is correct, because you had no right to propose me to the Lodge, either as an honorary or joining member without my permission.

I am utterly at a loss to understand however why the members of Rising Star do unanimously entertain ill will towards me, for I am not aware of having ever given any offence to any of them and I certainly never intended to do so. I am afraid their minds have been poisoned against me by some vile traducer who ought to be unmasked.

It occurred to me as possible that they black-balled me in revenge for the wholesale black-balling of the members of Rising Star by Lodge Perseverance when they applied to join that Lodge, but if so their ideas of justice must be very strange, for as I am not a member of Lodge Perseverance I could not have had anything to do with black-balling any of the members of Rising Star in it, but Barton had, for he was the prime mover in the black-balling by his own admission in open Lodge, and yet Rising Star unanimously black-balled me when you proposed me as an Honorary Member and unanimously elect Barton to be recommended to be appointed Provincial Grand Master of Western India under Scotland at one and the same meeting.

Yours truly,

G. S. JUDGE.

P. S.—I hope you will ascertain for me the reason for this unanimous black-balling, for I have a right to know it as it is an unmerited insult aimed at one ever respected by the rest of the Craft.

To

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE, ESQR.

---

*Villa Byculla,*

*February 28th, 1863.*

My dear Judge,

I have the pleasure of your note. If Barton told you you were unanimously black-balled on my proposal in the "Star" to elect you an Honorary Member, he told you what is not quite correct. In the first place there was no ballot, but on the show of hands the proposition was lost because there were some pros, some cons, and because Honorary Members must be elected by acclamation and unanimously.

I feel sorry for this and expressed my feelings by instantly leaving the meeting.

As to Barton's telling you that Rising Star has unanimously elected him to be recommended to be appointed Provincial Grand Master, all I can say is that I heard of this for the first time from your note under acknowledgment. I know nothing of it myself.

In great haste I will not add more than yours  
on the



MANECKJEE CURSETJEE.

To

G. S. JUDGE, ESQR.

---

*28th February 1863.*

My Dear Maneckjee,

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am glad it is not so bad as Barton represented it, though I am sorry any of the members of Rising Star thought proper to insult you. I should still like to know whether the objectors have taken offence at me for something or other and if so, at what, because my conscience acquits me of having intentionally given offence to any one or whether they do not think that holding the office of Senior Provincial Grand Warden of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay makes me a sufficiently distinguished member of the Craft to justify them in conferring upon me the honour of electing me an Honorary Member of their Lodge or whether they do not think I have yet done enough for Masonry in Bombay to entitle me to so high an honour.

Lodge St. Andrews in the East, at Poona, thought differently some years ago and since that I have wished to add enough to have attained a higher position in the Craft than I had when they elected me an Honorary Member of their lodge.

I must still, therefore, ask you to arrange that neither the proposal of my name as an Honorary Member of Lodge Rising Star nor its rejection shall be recorded in the minutes of your last meeting, as the proposition was made without my consent having been first obtained, and I shall attend the next meeting of the Rising Star when I hope you will accompany me to see that it is not recorded.

Yours truly,  
G. S. JUDGE.

To

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE, ESQR.

(True copies.)

MANECKJEE CURSETJEE.

---

*Bombay, 19th March 1863.*

To

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF LODGE RISING STAR,  
BOMBAY.

Worshipful Sir and Brother,

I have been informed that at your last meeting Worshipful Brother Maneckjee Cursetjee proposed me for election as an Honorary Member of your Lodge and that the proposition was rejected because the ballot was not unanimous. As that proposition was made without my knowledge or consent, the voting upon it was null and void and I therefore protest against any record of the transaction being entered upon your minutes.

I confess I should have been surprised at your having committed the irregularity, and to say injustice of taking the opinion of your Lodge upon the question of my masonic worth in the form of an election as an Honorary Member without my consent, if I did not believe that your desire to show kindness to me prevented the irregularity of the proceeding from occurring to your mind.

Whilst protesting against any record of the above matters being entered in the minutes book of your Lodge and maintaining the irregularity of the whole transaction, I am duly sensible of the honour which Worshipful Brothers Maneckji Cursetjee and those who voted with him intended to confer upon me, and I am duly grateful to him and them for their kind intentions.

I remain, Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

G. S. JUDGE,

*Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bombay*

*under the Grand Lodge of England.*

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#### APPENDIX M.

LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA No. 342.

*Bombay, 22nd October 1866.*

To

WORSHIPFUL BROTHER K. R. CAMA, Secretary,  
Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India under  
Scotland.

Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother,

I am desired by the Worshipful Master of Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342 to request you to bring to the prominent notice of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Western India under Scotland an objectionable practice latterly followed by Lodge St. Andrews in the East with respect to initiating native residents of Bombay in that Lodge.

You are aware that Lodge Rising Star was founded expressly for the reception of Native Gentlemen of undoubted good character, and an especial covenant was entered into between this Lodge and the then only existing Lodge, which was Perseverance, restricting the former to the initiation of Native Gentlemen only, and the latter to

that of European Gentlemen, for the most obvious reason that members of each community can only be well known within itself. On the basis thus laid down, both lodges have worked harmoniously to this day without in the least interfering with each other's work. This Lodge has, I am happy to say, constantly kept before it this important object for which it was established, and has refrained most conscientiously from initiating any candidate who was likely to prove himself unworthy of this lodge and a disgrace to the honoured Craft. This accounts for the paucity of the members of this Lodge and for the non-increase of other Native Lodges. While we are thus exercising a strict caution in our own sphere, we are grieved to learn that Lodge St. Andrews in the East freely initiate native candidates from Bombay who have been either refused admission or have not dared to ask for it well knowing from common reports that this Lodge is very strict in its choice of members. If this system is allowed to continue we shall be soon inundated with the visits of improper persons with whom we should certainly object to meet on a footing of equality. It has already come to the notice of some members of this Lodge that, encouraged by the successful attempts of certain native candidates in getting admittance into Freemasonry at Poona, others of the same stamp of character have resolved to make a trip to Poona with the express object of getting themselves admitted into the Poona Lodge. This circumstance has, therefore, become a source of great anxiety to members of this Lodge, for her vitality depends on the maintenance of the high position which she has enjoyed and which is likely to be undermined if disreputable persons go about in the native community styling themselves Freemasons. Not only will this Lodge be in danger of losing its character but Freemasonry will be brought into contempt in Bombay if every person who could afford to pay his entrance fee

in the Poona Lodge could turn out bedecked in Masonic costumes. The question has stirred up the members of the Lodge so much that a very animated discussion was carried on on the subject at the last meeting of this Lodge, the result of which was that a Resolution was unanimously passed to represent the circumstances to the Provincial Grand Master with a request that he will use his best endeavours to get the grievance remedied.

I remain,

Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother,

Yours fraternally,

JEHANGIR MERWANJI,

Secretary, Lodge Rising Star.

#### APPENDIX N.

THIS INDENTURE made the third day of May in the  
 Christian year one thousand eight  
 Parties. hundred and seventy BETWEEN  
 JOHN ALEXANDER JAMES  
 SHAW of Bombay European Inhabitant and KURSON-  
 DASS NENSEE of Bombay Hindoo Inhabitant TRUS-  
 TEES of the ESTATE of SORABJEE PESTONJEE  
 FRAMJEE NOWROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE and  
 MERWANJEE JAMSETJEE who lately carried on  
 trade in partnership in Bombay under the name, firm and  
 style of "S. and N. NANABHOY" of the first part, the  
 said NOWROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE of Bombay  
 Parsee Inhabitant of the second part and KURSHEDJEE  
 RUSTOMJEE CAMA of Bombay Parsee Inhabitant and  
 MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN also of Bom-  
 bay Parsee Inhabitant of the third part WHEREAS  
 the said NOWROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE being  
 Settlor's Seisin. seized of or otherwise entitled to the  
 piece or parcel of land and here-  
 ditaments hereinafter described and hereby granted

conveyed released and assured or expressed and intended so to be agreed prior to the insolvency of his said firm to

His Agreement to settle. convey the same to trustees upon the trusts hereinafter expressed and declared concerning the same for

the benefit of the members of the MASONIC LODGE in Bombay called "RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA"

No. 342 or such other lodge as is hereinafter referred to but no conveyance or deed of trust was ever executed

AND WHEREAS at a meeting of the creditors of the said firm of "S. and N. NANABHOY" convened under Act XXVIII of 1865 of the

Winding up of the Settlor's Firm under Act 28 of 1865.

Legislative Council of India and held on the twenty-first day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six it was resolved (*inter alia*) by a majority in number and unsecured value of creditors present or represented at the said meeting that the estate of the said firm of "S. and N. NANABHOY" should be wound up under the management of trustees in accordance with the provisions of the said Act XXVIII of 1865 and that an applica-

Original trustees for winding up.

tion be made to the High Court for that purpose and that ROWLAND HAMILTON PESTONJEE NOW-ROJEE POCHAJEE and SEWJEE WELLJEE should be appointed such trustees AND WHEREAS by an order of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay dated the twenty-fifth day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six the said

Confirmation by High Court of the resolutions to wind up.

Substitution of winding up trustees.

resolutions were confirmed AND WHEREAS by another order made by the said High Court of Judicature at Bombay in the said matter on the fifth day of June one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six WILLIAM JAMES BEST and the said KURSONDAS NENSEE were

substituted for the said PESTONJEE NOWROJEE  
POCHAJEE and SEWJEE WELLJEE as trustees of the

Further substitution. said estate AND WHEREAS by an

order of the said High Court of Judi-  
cature at Bombay dated the Twenty-second day of  
December one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six it  
was ordered that the said JOHN ALEXANDER JAMES  
SHAW be appointed a trustee in the place and stead of  
the said WILLIAM JAMES BEST resigned AND  
WHEREAS by an order of the said High Court of Judi-  
cature at Bombay made on the Thirtieth day of March  
one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine it was ordered  
that the said ROWLAND HAMILTON be permitted to  
resign the trusts of the said estate and that any Act by  
the provisions of the said Act required or authorized  
to be done by the trustees might be done by the

Agreement of said  
trustees to convey  
upon Trust. remaining trustees the said JOHN  
ALEXANDER JAMES SHAW and  
KURSONDASS NENSEE AND

WHEREAS the said JOHN ALEX-  
ANDER JAMES SHAW and KURSONDASS NENSEE  
have consented at the request of the said NOWROJEE  
NANABHOY FRAMJEE to convey the said piece or  
parcel of land and hereditaments to the said KUR-  
SHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE  
CAWASJEE MURZBAN their heirs and assigns upon  
the trusts and to and for the ends intents and purposes  
hereinafter declared and contained concerning the same.

Testatum.

NOW THIS INDENTURE  
WITNESSETH that in pursuance of  
the said agreement and in consideration of the premises  
they the said JOHN ALEXANDER JAMES SHAW and  
KURSONDASS NENSEE do and each of them doth

Grant.

hereby grant release convey and  
assure and the said NOWROJEE  
NANABHOY FRAMJEE doth hereby grant release

convey assure and confirm unto the said KURSHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE

Trustees of Settlement. MURZBAN their heirs and assigns ALL THAT piece or parcel of foras freehold land or ground and premises formerly and now vacant situate at Bellasis

Parcels. Road on the South side of the said road in the sub-district of Mazagaon

in the Island of Bombay containing by admeasurement Ten thousand and eight hundred square yards or thereabouts registered in the books of the Collector of Land Revenue under Nos. 100 and 101 and bounded as follows:—that is to say on the East and North by property belonging to the Bank of Bombay on the West by property belonging to Jehangeer Nusserwanjee and on the South partly by property belonging to the estate of the late Luxuman Govindjee and partly by property belonging to the said Bank of Bombay TOGETHER WITH all ways, waters,

General Words wells, trees, liberties, privileges, easements, advantages and appurtenances

whatsoever to the said piece or parcel of land and premises hereby granted released conveyed assured and confirmed or expressed and intended so to be or any of them or any part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining

Estate Clause. AND ALL THE ESTATE right title and interest whatsoever both

at law and in equity of them the said JOHN ALEXANDER JAMES SHAW, KURSONDASS NENSEE AND NOWROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE or of any of them in to or out of the said piece or parcel of land and premises and every part thereof TO

Habendum. HAVE AND TO HOLD the said

piece or parcel of land hereditaments and premises hereby granted released conveyed assured and confirmed or expressed and intended so to be with the appurtenances UNTO AND TO THE USE of the said

KHURSHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN their heirs and assigns upon and for the trusts intents and purposes and with under and subject to the powers provisos agreements and declarations hereinafter declared and contained or referred to of and concerning the same AND IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND DECLARED

Trusts of Settlement.

that the said KHURSHEJDEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN their heirs and assigns shall stand seized of the said piece or parcel of land hereditaments and premises UPON TRUST FOR the members for the time being of the said LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN

Cestuis-que-trust.

INDIA No. 342 working under the GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND and to permit the erection thereon of a building to be called "THE FRAMJEE CAWASJEE MASONIC HALL"

Erection of the Framjee Cawasjee Masonic Hall.

for the use of the said members of the said LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA No. 342 AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER AGREED AND DECLARED that if it shall hereafter

Determination by cestuis-que-trust not to build a Hall.

be determined not to build the said Hall on the land hereinbefore described and hereby granted conveyed released and assured the said

KHURSHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN or the survivor of them or the heirs of such survivor (hereinafter called the trustees or trustee)

At request of cestuis-que-trust trustees to sell or exchange.

shall at the request in writing of the majority of the members for the time being of the said LODGE RISING STAR OF WESTERN INDIA No. 342 dispose of all or any of the said premises either by way of sale or in exchange for

other hereditaments upon such terms and under such conditions as the said KHURSHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN or the survivor of them or the heirs of such survivor shall think fit and may revoke the trusts and powers then subsisting in the hereditaments so sold or disposed of in exchange and appoint the same to such uses and in such manner as shall be expedient to effectuate such sale or exchange AND IT IS HEREBY

Receipt of trustees.

DECLARED that the receipt of the said trustees or trustee for any monies paid to them or him upon any sale or for equality of exchange under the power of sale and exchange hereinbefore contained shall effectually discharge the persons paying the same therefrom and from being concerned to see to the application thereof AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that the said trustees or trustee shall at

Trusts of sale proceeds or exchanged land.

the like request lay out the money received upon any sale or for equality of exchange either in the purchase of land in the Island of Bombay to be settled upon the trusts and subject to the powers hereby limited or in the erection or towards the erection of a building on any land belonging to the Masonic Body, working under the Grand Lodge of Scotland subject to the condition that such building shall be called "THE FRAMJEE CAWASJEE MASONIC HALL" AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DE-

Interim investment.

CLARED that until the money to be received upon any sale or for equality of exchange shall be laid out as aforesaid the said trustees or trustee may with the consent of the majority of the said members invest the same in their or his names or name in Promissory Notes of the Government of India but in no other mode of investment AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that until the said building to be called

“ THE FRAMJEE CAWASJEE MASONIC HALL ”  
shall be erected the said trustees or trustee shall apply  
the income to arise from the said

Use of income of land or land taken in exchange or  
trust premises. from the securities on which the  
proceeds of land sold shall be invest-

ed in or towards the payment of the rent of a building to  
be called “ THE FRAMJEE CAWASJEE MASONIC  
HALL ” to be used for the purposes aforesaid I ROVID-  
ED ALWAYS and it is hereby further declared that if

the said LODGE RISING STAR  
OF WESTERN INDIA No. 342  
shall from any cause whatever cease  
to exist the said trustees or trustee

shall stand seized or possessed of the said land or any land  
to be taken in exchange as aforesaid and the proceeds  
of any land sold and so far as they can of the building to  
be erected and called “ THE FRAMJEE CAWASJEE  
MASONIC HALL ” for the members for the time  
being or such other Lodge working under the Grand  
Lodge of Scotland as the said trustee or trustees shall  
think fit upon the trusts and to and for the ends intents  
and purposes and with under and subject to the powers  
provisions and declarations hereinbefore contained or  
such of them as shall be then subsisting or capable of  
taking effect AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that if

the said trustees hereby appointed  
Appointment of or either of them or any trustee or  
new trustees. trustees to be appointed as herein-

after is mentioned shall die or desire to be discharged or  
refuse or become incapable to act then and so often the  
majority of the said members or in the event of the dis-  
solution of the said Lodge the surviving or continuing or  
the executors of the surviving trustee, may appoint a new  
trustee or new trustees in the stead of the trustee or  
trustees so dying or desiring to be discharged or refusing

or becoming incapable to act and upon every such appointment the said trust premises shall be so transferred that the same may become vested in the new trustee or trustees jointly with the surviving or continuing trustee or solely as the case may require and every such new trustee shall (as well before as after the said trust premises shall have become so vested) have the same

power authorities and discretion as if he had been hereby originally appointed a trustee AND IT IS

HEREBY DECLARED that the trustees for the time being of these presents shall be respectively chargeable only with such monies as they respectively shall actually receive and shall not be answerable for each other nor for any banker broker or other person in whose hands any of the trust moneys shall be placed nor for the insufficiency or deficiency of any securities nor otherwise for involuntary losses and that the said trustees may respectively reimburse themselves out of the trust pre-

Covenants against incumbrances by the settler and the trustees of his firm.

mises all expenses incurred in or about the execution of the aforesaid trusts and powers AND each of them the said JOHN ALEXANDER JAMES SHAW KURSONDASS

NENSEE and NOWROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE so far as relates to his own acts doth hereby for himself his heirs executors and administrators covenant with the said KHURSHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN their heirs and assigns that they the said JOHN ALEXANDER JAMES SHAW KURSONDASS NENSEE and NOWROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE respectively have not done or knowingly suffered or been party or privy to anything whereby the said piece or parcel of land and premises hereinbefore described and hereby granted released conveyed assured and confirmed or intended so to be or any part

thereof are is or can be impeached incumbered or affected  
 in title estate or otherwise howso-  
 ever IN WITNESS WHEREOF  
 the said JOHN ALEXANDER  
 JAMES SHAW KURSONDASS NENSEE and NOW-  
 ROJEE NANABHOY FRAMJEE KHURSHEDJEE  
 RUSTAMJEE CAMA and MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE  
 MURZBAN have hereunto set their respective hands  
 and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and deli- vered by the above named John Alexander James Shaw Cursondass Nensee Nowrojee Nana- bhoy Framjee Khurshed- jee Rustamjee Cama and Muncherjee Cawasjee Murzban in the presence of	}	(Sig.) Jno. A. J. SHAW. ○
		" KURSONDASS NENSEE. ○
		" NOWROJEE NA- NABHOY ○
		" FRAMJEE. ○
		" KHURSHEDJEE RUSTAMJEE ○
		" CAMA. ○
		" MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE MURZBAN. ○

(Signed) GEORGE S. LYNCH,

*Bombay, Solicitor.*

(ENDORSEMENTS.)

Messrs. Jno. A. J. Shaw and Cursondass Nensee (trus-  
 tees of the Estate of Sorabjee Pestonjee Framjee, Now-  
 rojee Nanabhoy Framjee and Merwanjee Jamshedjee)  
 Nowrojee Nanabhoy Framjee Cursetjee Rustamjee Cama  
 and Muncherjee Cawasjee Murzban (gentlemen) exec-  
 uting parties residing in Bombay admit execution. All are  
 known to the Registrar.

(Signed) Jno. A. J. SHAW.

" KURSONDASS NENSEE.

" NOWROJEE NANABHOY  
FRAMJEE.

" KHURSHEDJEE RUSTAM-  
JEE CAMA.

" MUNCHERJEE CAWASJEE  
MURZBAN,

(Signed) B. DADABHOY,

*Registrar of Bombay.*

3rd May 1870,

Registered No. 32 A at pages 136 to 145, Vol. 16 of  
Book No. 1.



(Signed) B. DADABHOY,  
*Registrar of Bombay.*

30th May 1870.

Register No. 3      Collector's No. 100 and 101  
Old Survey No. 82      and New Survey No. 1/6909.

The foregoing deed of transfer of land has been duly registered in the Register Book (marked letter A) of the Foras Freehold property in the Island of Bombay, which I hereby certify.

(Signed) F. F. ARBUTHNOT,  
*Collector.*

*Bombay, Collector's Office, 12th May 1877.*

Registered.

S 721-2000-277

## APPENDIX O.

*Bombay, 18th December 1872.*

To

J. N. DADY, ESQ.,

Worshipful Master, Lodge Cyrus.

Dear Sir and Worshipful Brother—

It has recently come to my knowledge that some Hindu gentlemen are about to be initiated in Lodge Cyrus of which you are the Worshipful Master.

The subject of admitting Hindus into Freemasonry has been very frequently discussed without any definite result. Very great and careful consideration has at all times been paid to this important question by individual Lodges, and it has been viewed in the most favourable light possible, but the conclusions arrived at, by each

body, was that no methodical or systematic rules could be laid down by one particular Lodge how and in what manner Hindus could be admitted into Freemasonry, and each Lodge thought that such a question could not be settled by one single Lodge but by all the Lodges meeting on this side of Western India.

I therefore deem it my paramount duty to acquaint you that this question has already been discussed by individual Lodges, in the hope that you may not take any hasty step in a matter which requires to be carefully arranged and systematically put through.

I think your Lodge would be incurring a grave responsibility were you not to pay any attention to the experience of the past and proceed to initiate the candidates in question.

In my humble opinion it would be better if you were to hold a conference with your sister Lodges, both English and Scotch, and there discuss this subject which, as it does, affects the interest of every Freemason throughout the globe.

No one is more willing than myself to see the Hindus enrolled amongst us, for I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that if this can be done without doing any violence to the spirit of our Order, all the caste prejudices which grind down the Hindus would melt away under the benign influence of Freemasonry and create a social revolution in India.

The great importance that I attach to this subject is my only apology for troubling you with this long letter, and I have to request you to be good enough to read it to your Lodge before you proceed to ballot for the candidates.

I have not had time to communicate with all the members of my Lodge upon the subject, but I have consulted

with many of the oldest members and they are all at one with me.

I remain,

Dear Sir and Worshipful Brothers,

Yours faithfully,

D. R. CHICHGUR,

Worshipful Master, Lodge Rising Star.

## APPENDIX P.

Lodge Rising Star of Western India,

No. 342 S. C.

*Bombay, 1st March 1879.*

To Right Worshipful Brother.

The Hon'ble JAMES GIBBS, C.S.I.

District Grand Master of Bombay, E. C.,

Honorary Member of Lodge Rising Star of  
Western India, etc.

Right Worshipful Sir and Beloved Brother,—

We, the Master, Past Masters, Officers and Members of Rising Star of Western India, in open Lodge assembled, greet you with mingled feelings of delight and regret on this, probably the last occasion of your attending amongst us in your capacity of a fellow-member.

Your high position in our venerable Order, harmoniously blending with your distinguished public and social rank, has demanded from you, Right Worshipful Sir, towards the discharge of your high Masonic functions, the continued exercise of rare qualities both of the head and the heart for a series of years. The ability, the zeal, and the judiciousness which you have invariably brought to bear on the administration of that section of the Craft which has had the good fortune to enjoy your rule, have

contributed to strengthen its hold and develop its usefulness during your tenure of office in a very marked degree; while your urbanity, large-heartedness, and benevolence of spirit have won for you among Masons generally that regard, esteem, and attachment which find but an inadequate expression in the numerous valedictory demonstrations which have been set on foot this season in your honour.

It would be encroaching on the privilege assumed by both the Grand Lodges were we to particularise and dwell here upon the great and abiding benefits which your tact and prudence, combined with the influence of your personal and Masonic dignity, have conferred on the cause of Masonry in this Presidency. The relationship between the English and Scotch bodies has been closer and the co-operation of each with the other freer during your tenure of office than it had been in the past, and we cannot refrain from expressing how much this pleasing result was owing to your discretion and geniality of disposition. To your responsive co-operation, Right Worshipful Sir, was in a great measure due the accomplishment of that arrangement which the members of both the Constitutions had for a long time past looked upon as the best means of effecting the much desired alliance between them, that by which the Lodges of both the Constitutions meet under one roof now.

Thus, Right Worshipful Sir, while your great influence and judicious efforts in a higher capacity than that of member of an individual Lodge have promoted the interests of Masonry in general, the privilege which this Lodge has enjoyed of bearing upon its rolls your distinguished name almost from the beginning of its career, has naturally contributed to increase its prestige in an appreciable degree. We are proud to trace your connection with this the first Lodge that extended the benefits of

the Craft to the sons of India, from a date when many of its younger members were not born. Your wide sympathies with the people of the country, and your far-reaching endeavours to secure their well-being, have imparted to your name a character which eminently justifies its appearance among the names of those who under the leadership of its eminent and Worshipful Brother Doctor Burnes, threw open to them the portals of Masonry now thirty-five years ago. And your unbroken connection with this lodge heretofore is a circumstance which, while it testifies to your zeal in advancing the cause which the Lodge represents, proves, we venture to believe, that throughout its long career, it has striven to do its work and maintain the prestige of its auspicious origin in a manner which has enlisted the approval of so eminent a Mason as yourself.

Some years ago, Right Worshipful Sir, your fellow-members expressed their recognition of your unswerving attachment to this Lodge and of your high Masonic worth, by translating your name to the list of its honorary members and by voting you the highest honour in their gift, the Fundator's Medal. These measures have so far rivetted your connection with this Lodge that no distance of situation can make a difference in the relationship which it claims with you. And though we sincerely regret your approaching departure from these shores, in that we shall miss your genial presence and mature judgment on important occasions in future, we gladly seize this opportunity of assuring you, Right Worshipful Sir, that as in the annals of this Lodge, so in the recesses of our hearts, your beloved name will always be fondly retained. We now bid you farewell and earnestly pray the Grand Architect of the Universe that He may be pleased to grant you, in your honoured retirement, many years of enjoyment and usefulness in a yet broader Masonic sphere.

Accept, Right Worshipful Sir, the parting assurance of our deep attachment and fraternal regard, and

Believe us to remain,

With profound respect,

Your faithful Brethren,

HORMUSJI DADABHOY

HENRY MORLAND

MANECKJI CURSETJI

K. R. CAMA

M. C. MURZBAN

D. R. CHICHGUR

P. M. MEHTA

R. M. PATELL

NOWROJI FURDOONJI

J. D. WADIA

JEHANJIR GUSTADJI

H. M. CHICHGUR

R. M. CHICHGUR

M. M. BHOWNAGREE

M. D. DOCTOR

and others.

The Worshipful Master then handed the address to Right Worshipful Brother Gibbs amid loud applause.

Right Worshipful Brother James Gibbs, whose rising was loudly cheered, then said that when he looked back to the time, the first occasion that is, when he attended Lodge Rising Star, which was so far as he recollected in August or September 1847, he recollected that there were then in it only a few members of the Parsee community and one or two of the Mahomedan, Lodge Rising Star was

then, as they were probably aware, a sister Lodge to Perseverance, the members of which were also members of Lodge Rising Star. When he looked back to those days he recollected that there was then only one English lodge in Bombay and one for the admission of natives. Now he found that among the number of Lodges over which he had the honuor to rule these nine years, there were two Parsee, one Hindu, and eleven European Lodges. He was glad to mention in passing that within the last few years European Lodges had also multiplied, so that there was some inherent good agency at work in Freemasonry if it could induce Europeans not only to bring masonry into this country and practise it, but practise it so as to impel the natives to seek admission under its banners. The humble services which he (the speaker) had rendered to the cause were dilated upon in very flattering terms in the good address which they had just heard read. In whatever positions he happened to be placed, he endeavoured to perform his duties diligently, and if his exertions had been attended by success that fact was mainly due to the zealous support of his collaborateurs, both European and native. If, again, his relationship with the natives had been pleasant and such as to meet with their approval, it was owing, in the first instance, to his having been brought up at home under those, and secondly, to his having passed the first years of his service in this country under men with whom the welfare of the natives of India was a principal aim. He had tried to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, who belonged to the Civil Service in India, and who rose to be the Governor of Bombay. He was also indebted for his habits of kindly intercourse with the people of this country to other connections of his, principally the father of the Brigadier-General commanding this division. From them he learned the good old-fashioned feeling the Europeans in

India of those days entertained towards its people. He had the good fortune of serving his apprenticeship under the two brothers Frere also, and he, (the speaker) thought he had superior opportunities in his early career of learning from that able class of civilians the proper behaviour towards the natives of this country. It was, the Right Worshipful Brother observed, a hard thing now to say farewell to that country. He had begun to say that word within the last fortnight, and would have to continue saying it over and over again for some days, and it was all the harder to utter to a person who felt as he felt then, like a great tree, that was granting a tree to have the sense of feeling, which having been planted and grown and thriven in a soil was to be torn up by the root and transplanted elsewhere. He felt he was going to be submitted to that process, and it was impossible for him under that feeling to go on speaking further. He would, therefore, conclude by saying that wherever he might go, he would always remember the kindness received from the people of this country by him, especially the kindness he had received from his masonic brethren during the last days of his residence among them. Wherever he might go and whatever duty he might be called upon to perform in future, he would always retain a lively interest for the good of the country in which he had passed a period of an ordinarily long life to which he could look back with pleasure and satisfaction. He promised that the reception accorded him that evening would never be forgotten, and in heartily thanking the brethren for the very kind address they presented to him, he hoped to hand it down to his children after him, and possibly to his children's children, so that it would at all events serve as a memorial to inform them that their father and possibly their ancestor was a member of Lodge Rising Star and was beloved and respected in such kindly terms by his-fellow members,

## A P E P E N D I X Q.

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Court Fee Stamp Rs. 2.
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT  
BOMBAY. ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL  
JURISDICTION.

SUIT NO. 352 OF 1897.

Coram—Fulton, J.

(1) Pestonji Manockji Kanga, of Bombay, Parsee, an attorney of this Honourable Court, residing in Bombay, at No. 39, Charni Road, without the Fort ; (2) Jijibhoy Framji Petit, also of Bombay, Parsee, residing in Bombay, on the Altamount Road, without the Fort; and (3) Framji Jivanji Patel, also of Bombay, Parsee, residing in Bombay, at No. 10, Church Gate Street, within the Fort, the Master, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden, respectively, of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342, on the Rolls of the Grand Lodge of Scotland for themselves and on behalf of all other members of the said Lodge Rising Star of Western India. .

Victoria by the  
Grace of God of  
the United King-  
dom of Great Bri-  
tain and Ireland,  
Queen, Defender  
of the Faith. Em-  
press of India.

Plaintiffs.

Vs.

(1) Kharsedji Rustomji Cama, of Bombay, Parsee, residing in Bombay, at Malabar Hill, without the Fort ; and (2) Khan Bahadur Muncherji Cowasji Murzban, Companion of the Most Eminent Order of

Defendants.

the Indian Empire, residing in }  
 Bombay on the Esplanade Road, }  
 without the Fort, Trustees of the } Defendants.  
 Indenture of Settlement hereinafter }  
 referred to. }

The plaintiffs pray that the defendants may be directed to transfer and make over to the Committee, referred to in paragraph six of the plaint, the monies and securities held by them as Trustees of the Indenture of Settlement of the third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy (less their and the defendants' costs, charges, and expenses) upon the members of the said Committee (not as such members only but for and on behalf of the persons for the time being owners of the Masonic Temple referred to in the fifth paragraph of the plaint and so as to bind the said temple) agreeing in writing to name the Banqueting Hall of the said Temple "The Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall" and to erect and maintain a tablet in a conspicuous part of the said Hall bearing an inscription in the words or to the effect of the resolution set forth in the letter of the Honorary Secretary to the Hall Committee to the defendants, dated the twelfth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, copy whereof is annexed as Exhibit D to the plaint, and further agreeing to such other proposals for the due carrying out of the said agreement of the said Committee as to the said Lodge Rising Star may seem proper. (2) That the costs, charges, and expenses of this suit may be provided for. (3) That all other proper directions may be given and orders made as to this Honourable Court may seem meet. And the suit being this day called on for hearing and final disposal, the plaintiffs and the defendants appearing respectively by Advocates, and upon hearing evidence and perusing exhibits and upon hearing the said Advocates, This Court doth order and decree that

upon the members of the said Committee (not as such members only but for and on behalf of the persons for the time being owners of the said Temple and so as to bind the said Temple) agreeing in writing with the defendants as Trustees of the said Indenture of the third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, copy whereof is annexed to the plaint and marked A, to name the Banqueting Hall of the said Temple "The Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall" and to erect and maintain a tablet in a conspicuous part of the said Hall bearing an inscription in the words or to the effect of the resolution set forth in the letter of the Honorary Secretary to the said Committee to the defendants, dated the twelfth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six (copy of which is hereto annexed) and upon the said Committee further agreeing in writing to such other proposals for the due carrying out of the said agreement of the said Committee as to the Lodge Rising Star in the plaint mentioned may seem proper, the defendants do transfer and make over to the said Committee the monies and securities held by the said defendants as Trustees of the said Indenture of Settlement of the third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy (less the said defendants' and plaintiffs' costs, charges, and expenses), and This Court doth further order that the receipt of the said Committee for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to the said defendants as Trustees in respect of the said monies and securities directed so to be transferred and made over as aforesaid, and this Court doth further order that the costs of this suit of the plaintiffs and the defendants as between attorney and client be paid out of the said trust funds, and this Court doth reserve further directions and any of the parties shall be at liberty to apply to the Court as there may be occasion. Witness, Sir Charles Frederick Farran, Knight, Chief Justice at Bombay, aforesaid, this

seventeenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

By the Court,

J. W. ORR,

*Prothonotary.*

Seal.

L. N. BANAJI.

*The 11th day of March 1898.*

The seal of the  
High Court at  
Bombay.

Decree drawn on application of  
Messrs. NANU & HORMUSJI,  
Plaintiffs' Attorneys.

Certified to be a true copy.

*This 11th day of March 1898.*

L. N. BANAJI,

*for Prothonotary.*

(Letter referred to in the foregoing decree.)

Masonic Hall, Byculla,

*Bombay, 12th May 1896.*

To

K. R. CAMA, ESQR.,

KHAN BAHADUR M. C. MURZBAN, C.I.E.,

Trustees of the FRAMJI COWASJI

MASONIC Hall Fund,

*BOMBAY.*

Gentlemen,

The Sub-Committee for arranging for the erection of the proposed Freemasons' Hall for the joint use of all the Masonic Bodies meeting in Bombay, desire me to inform you that in the event of your being able to contribute as a donation to the funds to be applied in acquiring the pro-

posed site from Government on a leasehold tenure of 200 (two hundred) years, and the erection of the Hall the Rs. 13,000 about held by you on the trusts created by the late Wor. Bro. N. N. Framji of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, or that amount less the expenses of obtaining advice and sanction, the Sub-Committee will undertake that there shall be erected in the Hall a tablet bearing the following inscription:—

“The Framji Cowasji Masonic Banqueting Hall. Part of the expenses of the erection of this Hall was met by the contribution of funds held on the trusts created by the late Wor. Bro. N. N. Framji of Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342 S.C., and by the leave of the High Court in accordance with which this Hall is to be called by the above name.”

It is essential that the Sub-Committee should be informed at an early date whether the proposed undertaking will be satisfactory to you and whether they may count on receiving the donation.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

DARASHA R. CHICHGUR,

*Honorary Secretary, F. J. H. Committee.*

## APPENDIX R.

Court
Eight of Annas,
India.

*Bombay, 18th November 1898.*

To

KHARSEDJI RUSTOMJI CAMA, ESQR., and  
KHAN BAHADUR MUNCHERJEE COWASJEE

MURZBAN, C.I.E.,

Trustees of the Indenture of  
Settlement dated the 3rd day  
of May 1870, and made be

tween John Alexander James Shaw and Kursondas Nensey of the first part, Nowrojee Nannabhoy Framjee of the second part, and yourselves of the third part.

DEAR SIRs,

In consideration of your having transferred and made over to us the monies and securities held by you as such Trustees as aforesaid after payment of the costs, charges, and expenses of High Court Suit No. 352 of 1897 as directed by the Decree therein, bearing date the 17th day of January 1898, which monies and securities are specified in the Schedule A, hereto annexed, we, the undersigned members of the Committee which has charge of the erection and management of the Masonic Temple now in course of erection on the Esplanade in Bombay (not as such members only, but, for and on behalf of the persons for the time being, owners of the said Temple and so as to bind the said Temple), hereby agree with you as such Trustees as aforesaid and the Trustees for the time being of the said Indenture that the Banqueting Hall of the said Temple shall for ever be named and called simply "The Framji Cowasji Banqueting Hall" without any addition or qualification whatever, and that a suitable tablet bearing the said title shall be affixed at the entrance of the said Hall or in a conspicuous part thereof, and that such tablet shall be at all times properly maintained and, further, that a member of Lodge Rising Star, to be nominated upon the election of the said Lodge by the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India for the time being, shall be at all times a member of the Hall Committee.

In Schedule B hereto is contained a description of the land on which the said temple is to be erected.

Yours faithfully,

R. S. Brown.

I. M. Shields.

A. Pell.

P. D. Sopariwala.

D. Gostling.

C. D. Wise.

J. A. Brandon.

Edw. J. Smith.

W. L. Harvey.

W. E. Jennings.

James Dunlop.

Alex. McKenzie.

Dinshaw Dorabjee Mistry.

Nowrosji N. Wadia.

R. M. Chichgur.

✓ Ghanasham Nilkanth Nadkarni.

H. R. Hoyles.

J. W. Hepworth.

H. J. Gordon.

Mirza Hoosein Khan.

P. N. Wadia.

Anandrao H. Kothare.

Framroz R. Joshi

N. J. Guzdar.

Hormusjee M. Chichgur.

Darasha Ruttonjee Chichgur.

K. R. Cama.

C. D. Furdoonjee.

#### SCHEDULE A.

Government securities of the nominal value of Rupees thirteen thousand and four hundred, Rupees one thousand five hundred and twenty-one, annas seven and pie one in cash.

#### SCHEDULE B.

(Description of land.)

## APPENDIX S.

To

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER

KHURSHEDJEE RUSTOMJEE CAMA,

Senior Past Master of Lodge

Rising Star of Western India, No. 342, S.C.

Right Worshipful Brother,

On this auspicious occasion of the presentation to you of the Masonic Jubilee Volume published to commemorate the completion of your fifty years of Masonic life in 1904, we, the Master, Office-bearers and the Members of your Mother-Lodge, "Rising Star of Western India," No. 342, of the Scottish Constitution, beg to approach you with feelings of brotherly love and sentiments of respectful esteem.

We beg to repeat our congratulations conveyed to you of the 24th of August of 1904, the 50th Anniversary of your initiation, and say that in congratulating you we congratulate ourselves for having among us an exemplary Freemason who has been always regular in his attendance; attentive to his duties, useful to the Craft in general and to his Lodge in particular, loyal in his observance of the virtues preached by the Craft and zealous in upholding the prestige of Freemasonry as an useful institution. We are proud to count you as one of our most dutiful, valued and useful brethren.

Your public career as a citizen of Bombay has been held to be successful, and we, as your fellow Brother-Masons, are led to think that the credit of that success is greatly due to the fact of your having led a steady and well-disciplined life as a Freemason from your very early youth.

In conclusion, we pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may enable you to serve as faithfully as ever

the Craft in general, and this your Mother-Lodge in particular, and to be useful to your fellow-brethren to the Honour and Glory of the Most High.

DOSABHOY C. SETHNA, W.M.

DOSABHOY FRAMJI		DINSHAW PETIT, P.M.
	WADIA, I.P.M.	PHIROZSHAH NUSSERWANJI
RUSTOM M. CHICHGUR, P.M.		PLEADER, P.M.
MANECK D. DOCTOR,	„	MANECK R. SETTNA „
TEMULJI BHICAJI		ARDESHIR F. UNWALLA „
	NARIMAN „	R. M. CHICHGUR, Acting
RUSTOM K. R. CAMA	„	Secretary
PESTONJI M. KANGA	„	SORAB C. HORMUSJI, S. W.
PHIROZE C. SETHNA	„	JAMSHED M. DOCTOR, J. W.
FRAMJI J. PATEL	„	

*Bombay, 12th March 1907.*

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#### APPENDIX T.

No. 447.

GRAND LODGE OF ALL SCOTTISH FREEMASONRY  
IN INDIA.

Grand Secretary's Office,  
Wallace Street, Fort,

*Bombay, August 24th, 1909.*

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTER,

Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342,

Bombay.

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am directed by the most Worshipful Grand Master to convey, on his behalf and that of Grand Lodge, their most sincere sympathy in the irreparable loss that has so recently befallen your Lodge. It is hardly necessary to

dwell upon the late Right Worshipful Brother K. R. Cama's merits as a Mason, on his fidelity to the principles of our Order—they are household words to every Freemason in India. For fifty-six years, this "Grand Old Man" in the Craft held high the banner, never faltering or failing. A noble, well-nigh an unique example. Full of years and honour he has gone to his rest and, who can doubt it, to his well-earned reward. God rest his soul.

I am further to intimate that so soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has instructed me to summon a Special Communication of Grand Lodge for the purpose of giving expression to our sorrow. Though your Lodge is individually affected, the death of this great and distinguished Brother has a far wider signification. For very many years he was one of the pillars of Grand Lodge,—earnest, zealous, whole-hearted: his loss will leave a gap which can never be filled in Scottish Freemasonry in India during this generation.

Further notice of the Special Communication will be given you in due course.

With sincere sympathy,

I remain,

Yours fraternally,

ARTHUR W. WISE,

*G. Secretary.*

---

Lodge Rising Star of Western India,

No. 343 S. C.,

4th September 1909.

To

MOST WORSHIPFUL BRO. COL. R. H. FORMAN,

Grand Master, A. S. F. I.

Most Worshipful Sir,

I am in receipt of the Grand Secretary's letter of the 24th ultimo, bearing No. 447, conveying to my Lodge the

condolence of yourself and of the Grand Lodge in our bereavement caused by the death of the late R. W. Bro. K. R. Cama.

We are deeply touched by the very sympathetic references made by you to our deceased brother and his work as a Mason, during the whole of his masonic career of over half a century, and I beg to express to you and the Grand Lodge our sincere acknowledgment of the cordial way in which your and their hearts have gone forth towards us in this dark hour of our grief.

The loss to the Craft is indeed great, but to our Lodge it is specially so and quite irreparable. The deceased was the child of our Lodge, and from the day he entered its sacred walls in 1854 he continued to be a subscribing member thereof until his death, which alone has now separated him from us.

From the very commencement of his Masonic life, he showed signs of a vigorous and healthy emulation to do what was best for the greatest good, and evinced a strong desire to maintain inviolate and spread the genuine tenets of the Order fearlessly and steadfastly, and worked with a whole heart to promote the welfare of the Lodge, and, above all, strove to maintain its reputation and prestige, which he regarded and taught every one of us to regard, as a sacred trust. The Masonic details about our distinguished Brother will bear the closest scrutiny, and will be vouched by the best sources of authority and will be found to be full of interest and instruction and a fit subject for study.

As a Freemason he was, we venture to say, one of the most accomplished craftsmen, and at the same time, thoroughly earnest in all he did, sincerely anxious to be helpful, and courageous in the expression of his convictions which were always honest and well-founded. His sage counsels, born of his great knowledge and experience, his independence of

thought and action, his consistent advocacy of "principle" which he on all occasions, without exception, unhesitatingly and scrupulously protected and enforced his high sense of discipline and honour in everything he said or did and above all his great strength of character, in which he yielded to none, always stood our Lodge in good stead and called forth a deserving tribute to his incalculable worth and helped to most happy and satisfactory solutions of the difficulties that at any time confronted us. His genial presence amongst us was always an ennobling and educating influence, especially so as he was singularly free (and a rare instance so far) from affectation or condescension and never betrayed himself either in word or deed into forgetfulness of Masonic lessons, but his whole conduct was regulated entirely by a high sense of honour and industry in investigation of subjects that affected the vital interests of the Lodge and by an equally high sense of duty to the Lodge.

We looked up to him, Most Worshipful Sir, as our guide and leader and we never found that our appeal was not responded to nor that our confidence was misplaced. In fact he, full of years, knowledge and experience, sought ever the younger members of the body and was to them a teacher and considered it always his duty, voluntarily and unsought, to assist them as best he could.

Unassuming to a degree and never known to show anger or malice he led a blameless, selfless and spotless Masonic life and was a very pattern for imitation by reason of his sterling and incomparable qualities and his thorough equipment for the responsible offices he held either in the Lodge or in the Grand Lodge and the exemplary and diligent discharge thereof in spite of his many-sided activities in public life outside the pale of Masonry.

Most Worshipful Sir, our distinguished Brother was the very embodiment of "plain living and high thinking"

in the Masonic world and his loyalty to his mother Lodge and the Grand Lodge of A. S. F. I. and the Grand Lodge of Scotland was deep-seated, consistent, steadfast and unswerving. He was, if I may be permitted to say so, a beacon-light in the Craft, at all times according safe guidance.

Always full of vigour and desirous of being useful he, as is well known, was most regular and punctual in his attendances and never omitted to attend a meeting either of the Lodge or of the Standing Committee or any sub-committee and it may be noted here that he attended even the very last meeting of the Lodge a fortnight before his death and of the Standing Committee only three days before that sad event took place.

A Brother who was such a venerable and staunch friend has left us, but with an undeniable claim to our esteem, veneration and gratitude for all times. He has left us the residuary legatees of his good wishes and the devisees of his Masonic example.

Most Worshipful Sir, the death of a Brother such as our distinguished helpmate, who was one of the most illustrious Past Masters of our Lodge and was universally admired and respected in the whole of the Masonic sphere where he made his power and influence felt in a marked degree, cannot be too deeply mourned. To our Lodge it has dealt a blow from which it will be almost impossible to recover. It is the severest blow, I may say, the Lodge has suffered, ever since the demise of the late Right Worshipful Brother Maneckji Cursetji, the Patriarch and Founder of Freemasonry for Indians on this side of our Presidency. It will thus be readily understood how deeply we deplore the loss. The Great Architect of the Universe has however in his Divine Dispensation called our Brother to the regions of Eternity where he will be able to render an unimpeachable account of himself and live for ever to do much nobler work than that performed in this transi-

tory world. His memory is all that now remains to us, with his undying work done during life, and this we shall cherish for ever and from it we will now seek light. May his remains find a peaceful repose !

Most Worshipful Sir, we highly appreciate the honor which, as is intimated by the Grand Secretary, is to be paid to our deceased Brother at a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge, and in view of it we have refrained from holding in his memory a Lodge of Sorrow, a merited tribute, which we would otherwise have paid to departed worth.

We claim to join, with all Freemasons in the expression of grief, but we also claim to make the declaration that our Brother's death has created a void which will not readily be filled and that for the deceased to have won golden opinion from such authorities as yourself is itself sufficient praise.

Again thanking you on behalf of myself and my Lodge for your kind sympathy,

I remain,

Most Worshipful Sir,

Yours fraternally,

D. R. WADIA, W.M

---

20, Queen's Road, Fort, Bombay.

*September 8th, 1909.*

Dear Brother Wadia,

I echo and endorse every word you have written. Right Worshipful Brother Cama was indeed the type of Mason that every one of us should strive to emulate. Naturally, I did not know him as intimately as some of those who had been associated with him for many years ; still, I knew him well, and long ago learnt to regard him with the deepest respect, esteem and reverence. *R. I. P.*

It was because his Masonic influence was so widespread that I ventured to ask "Rising Star" to waive right on behalf of Grand Lodge in order that, not only the members of his own Lodge, but the whole Fraternity might be accorded the opportunity of associating themselves with a ceremony designed to show respect to his memory and sorrow for his loss. That "Rising Star" acceded to my request is a source of melancholy satisfaction to me.

On Monday in Grand Chapter, I took the initial step towards perpetuating his memory. My own idea is :—

1. That we should put up a memorial tablet in the Hall and preferably, in my opinion, in the Sandhurst Temple.

2. That Lodges, Chapters and individuals should be asked to subscribe to a Cama Memorial Benevolent Fund to be handed over to the S. M. B. G. I. and administered by it.

The latter is, I think, peculiarly appropriate in that he was so keen an educationalist, and I feel sure that, were it possible to consult his wishes now, he would emphatically endorse a proposition which would associate his name with the succour of the poor and needy, rather than spend money, which might be usefully applied, in expensive portraits, or anything of that sort.

With reiterated and deepest sympathy,

Believe me,

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

R. H. FORMAN,

Grand Master.

8122



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